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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

SEVERAL important questions have this week divided attention amongst them, and our best plan will be to discuss the most conspicuous in succession, after our usual fashion.

Touching the India Bills, we fancy the public is rather in a dilemma. Unlike Macheath, it cannot be happy with either of them. Palmerston's had great faults—especially the faults to which the East Indian interest is most opposed. Derby's has faults of a more various and complicated kind. We speak from personal observation when we say that its ingenious structure is offensive to men of business, even in towns which it supplies with the right of electing members of council. And the reason appears on a little consideration. The class from whom the five are to come, dislike the mode in which their election is to be managed. They are doubtful of the fitness of the common constituencies to choose persons for such offices, and would probably prefer taking their chance with a Minister. On the other hand, we doubt whether the constituencies themselves care much for the proffered privilege. It is very little power that is offered them after all—a sip of power, in short, rather tantalising than gratifying. They are each to send one member of less than a third part of a body which is itself secondary to the Crown. And India, somehow, does not attract sufficiently the curiosity and sympathies of the general public. To promise a downright increase of the common political suffrage would be a real bribe to Liberals, but this Indian bribe amounts to offering a spoonful of curry to a hungry lion.

The attitude of the country toward this bill is curious. It is one of a kind of languid indifference. The bill is not hated. It is not loved. It is criticised, indeed, only by connoisseurs, and does not excite the mass of folk one way or the other. This state of things is indeed favourable to Ministers from one point of view, and this point of view involves some curious signs of the times. It is favourable, because it shows that the public do not care sufficiently about parties just now, to raise a fight about the two bills. Wanting to "set the rigging up," the country has luckily got a calm for the purpose.

Accordingly, we have a novel spectacle before us. Our Premier produces a cub, and says to the coun-



GENERAL SIRAUBENZEE, COMMANDER OF THE BRITISH FORCES IN CHINA.
(FROM AN ORIGINAL SKETCH.)

try you shall lick it into what shape you like. He views his offspring with the eye of a philosopher rather than a parent,—like old Blumenbach the physiologist, who, in arguing about the human frame, would lift up his little daughter on the table, and hold forth about her. Shall the country meet him in the same spirit? and prompt the House to cut and slash the bill into convenient form, without another "crisis," and an indefinite postponement of the affair? We confess that there are several reasons for pronouncing this the most advisable alternative at present.

The truth is, that there is little political principle involved in the difference between the bills; little that affects Whig and Tory questions, for instance. The great vital political principle of both is the superseding of the Leadenhall Street power—that Lord Derby's measure offering as much as the measure of Lord Palmerston. Compared with that, every other point sinks into a point of detail. On the whole, Lord Derby's is the most liberal of the two, politically speaking; but his election of the "five" is a small matter. In legislating for governing India, we have not the materials for the kind of controversy which Reform or Education provoke. People want to see a good machine turned out, and do not much care which side of the House of Commons manufactures it. Now, as nobody believes that bill No. 1. has any marked superiority over No. 2., and as, on the contrary, the latter is superior in the number of the Council, and so forth, why should we have another "crisis" before settling the Indian government? Why should not the Manchester men make their mark on the present bill by way of amendments and clauses? It wants correction in several points; we think that the number of the elected members must either be increased, for example, or the provision be abolished altogether; and we are not satisfied with the scale of pay. But changes like these can be made without a petty ministerial revolution, which would finally waste the remaining year.

While the India Bill is the most important topic of merely home interest, we have in Bernard's trial one which touches on all our tenderest foreign relations. We write while the trial is in progress, and do not therefore criticise the trial itself. But it is open to us to say that, whatever the result, the fact that such a trial is possible in England is



THE NORTH GATE, CANTON.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. E. ROUX.)

a sufficient answer to those who urge that we need special laws for the protection of foreign despots. On this point there must be no drawing back, and we shall take care for our own parts to stick to the principles frequently laid down by this journal on the subject. We have a statute which punishes those who are accessory to murders abroad—and we have juries to decide on the fact, and judges to expound the law. No person in Europe has a right to ask more from us. And, mark the principle involved here!—to give more, just now, would be tantamount to saying that despots—as despots—had some special right to protection at our hands; that we ought to make a game law to protect them (like pheasants) from being shot at. Now, we will not say that vultures are not game—which would be harsh, perhaps; but we will say, that no King or Emperor has any right to more than that general protection from our laws which every human being is entitled to, and which is afforded by the existence of the net under which Bernard was tried. Does a jury acquit? That is incidental to trial by jury, which we shall scarcely, perhaps, be expected (even by a French colonel) to abolish. Trial by jury has occasionally placed us in not quite satisfactory positions at home; and what we hear, foreigners must be content to bear.

We do not anticipate any present disturbance in Europe, though it is certain that there is more electricity in the atmosphere than there was a year ago. Napoleon must have the sense to see that we are doing for him whatever our institutions and traditions allow us to do with honour. Bonaparte has been in some degree brought to his senses, though we think he is getting out of the *Cagliari* affair cheap, and that he ought to be made to apologise to our nation, and to give compensation to the men he imprisoned besides. Otherwise, Italy's state is not immediately dangerous. We regret, in reading Mazzini's last brochure, the hatred he shows to Piedmont and to constitutionalists; for it is a sign of that internecine hatred between Italian men and Italian parties, which first enslaved their fair land, and still keeps it enslaved.

GENERAL VAN STRAUBENZEE, C.B.

MAJOR-GENERAL CHARLES T. VAN STRAUBENZEE, C.B., formerly of the 3rd Foot (Buffs), is descended, as his name imports, from Dutch ancestors, who came over to England with King William III. He is now about forty-eight years of age. He was born, we believe, in 1810; his first commission in the Line dates from 1828, and in the "Army List" of 1847, his name stands next below that of the gallant Sir Henry Havelock. He attained the rank of lieutenant in 1833, of captain in 1837, of major in 1843, of lieutenant-colonel in 1844. He went on half-pay in 1854. He served for some years with his regiment in India, more particularly throughout the campaign of 1841, against the Rajah of Coorg, and in the action of Maharajpore, December 20th, 1845, he succeeded to the command of the 39th Regiment. He served through a great portion of the Crimean campaign of 1854-5, and proved himself a most useful assistant to Miss Nightingale at Scutari. In 1857 he accompanied General Ashburnham to China; his conduct there is fresh in the memory of all our readers.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

MARSHAL PELISSIER left Paris for London on Wednesday. A grand dinner took place at the Tuileries on Sunday, at which Marshal Pelissier, Lord Cowley, Count Walewski, Ferouk Khan, Count de Persigny, and all the foreign Ambassadors and Ministers were present. General Espinasse, says rumour, is to leave the Home Office, and the same authority gives the names of M. de Persigny and M. de Morny as his successors.

The frequent consultations of the Emperor with the princes of finance have at length produced a result. The "Moniteur," to revive the drooping spirits of railway shareholders, informs them that any journal taking upon itself to predict a dividend upon any line of a lower amount than that which the directors may ultimately decide to pay, shall be prosecuted for the propagation of false news.

The Countess de Montijo, mother of the Empress, arrived in Paris last week, and alighted at the Hotel d'Albe, in the Champs Elysees. A Madrid letter says that she left that city very suddenly, and countermanded a ball at her house for which cards were out.

In the sitting of the Corps Legislatif, on Thursday week, the budget of 1855, being definitively made up, was brought forward for confirmation, and the House, pursuant to its custom, was about to vote it as a matter of course, when M. Emile Olivier rose, and in a short but telling speech demonstrated that the surplus of 324 millions for 1855 was obtained by a transparent juggle, and that in reality there was a deficit of 64 millions. The trick was achieved by putting down the ordinary expenses of the Minister at War under the head of extraordinary expenses, and in this way a large part of the ordinary budget was covered by loans, which were represented as being wanted only for extraordinary expenses. A great many deputies said privately that M. Olivier was quite right; but on a division he was supported only by the three deputies, M. Darimon, member for Paris, Dr. Henon, of Lyons, and M. Curé, of Bordeaux.

SWITZERLAND.

The differences between France and Switzerland may now be considered as settled. The French Government, after its first ebullition of anger, has adopted the wise course of conciliating the Confederation, and it has been met in the same spirit. Really vexatious proceedings with regard to passports being no longer insisted upon, as far as Swiss citizens are concerned, the consulates at Basle and Neuchâtel will be established without further resistance.

SPAIN.

The Spanish Government has formally denied that any "dynastic fusion" has ever been contemplated, nor has any change of the Ministry been mooted.

AUSTRIA.

AUSTRIA is concentrating troops on the Servian frontier, and her organs begin to speak of an insurrection of the whole Christian population in European Turkey as imminent, and likely to be followed by the dissolution of the Empire.

The Minister of Public Instruction and Worship in Austria has published an order to the effect that any person who shall join or favour a new sect called the New Jerusalem, which denies the necessity of public worship, ecclesiastical hierarchy, or different grades of civil society, shall be punished with fine and imprisonment.

Field-Marshal Baron Lederer has been appointed commandant of the city and fortress of Venice.

PRUSSIA.

The abdication of the King, and the establishment of a Regency under the Prince of Prussia, is talked of. There was another rumour to the effect that a plot against the life of the King has been discovered; but this proves to be unfounded; nor is it at all likely that the fading life and shadowy authority of the King should be attempted.

A royal ordinance dated Charlottenburg, April 9, prolongs the powers of the Prince of Prussia for three months. In communicating this ordinance to the Chambers, M. Manteuffel said that in obedience to the advice of his physicians his Majesty must abstain for some time longer from active participation in public affairs.

RUSSIA.

THE Cabinet of St. Petersburg has issued a circular despatch relative to the Christian subjects of the Porte; the following is said to be the gist of the document:—Russia demands that the question of the rials should be brought before a European conference. The present disturbances in the Herzegovine and in Bosnia, says the latter, entirely arise from the Porte not having executed provisions of the Hatti-Humayoun, but as the completion of that ordinance constitutes an obligation based on the treaty of Paris, it is the right, and even the duty, of the Powers who signed the treaty of Paris to exact that the position of the Christians in Turkey should be really settled, and without any restriction, according to the prescriptions of the Hatti-Humayoun. The cabinet of St. Petersburg declares against an isolated intervention of Austria in this question, and remarks that, in consideration of the analogy of religion, an intervention of Russia would be better justified. Russia, however, does not express a wish to interfere, all her efforts being directed to bringing the question before a European conference, which, according to the treaty of Paris, has a right to decide it. The despatch enlarges on the complaints of the rials, and promises a series of special proofs, which will be furnished to the Russian agents accredited in Turkey.

The emancipation of serfdom in Russia is again reported to be making great progress. The nobles of the districts of Orel and Tver, following the example of the other provinces, have solicited permission to form committees for regulating the enfranchisement of their serfs.

ITALY.

THE King of Naples is about to confer a blessing on humanity, we are told, by abdicating in favour of his son "on the slightest pressure from without." We are inclined to think this piece of intelligence of the kind which is too good to be true. Another letter informs us that the King has fitted out a squadron composed of a ship of the line, three steam frigates, three steam corvettes, and two cutters, and that this force is prepared in anticipation of an attack from Piedmont.

Mr. Hodge, whose friends here have been *getting* him, has addressed a letter to Count Cavour, expressing his gratitude for the consideration he has met with at the hands of the Sardinian Government.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

THE Porte has protested against the nomination by Russia of Greeks, naturalised Bulgarians, or Turks, to consularships in Turkey.

A commissioner has been despatched to Syria to investigate the grievances of the Christians. Montenegro and the Herzegovine are at length quieted.

The Turkish government is still greatly embarrassed for want of funds.

M. Thouvenel, the French envoy at Constantinople, is about to return to France on a temporary leave of absence. It is said he has been summoned to Paris to give some information on the internal state of Turkey, and also on the attitude assumed by Austria towards the Turkish government.

AMERICA.

THE House of Representatives at Washington had not yet arrived at a decision on the Kansas bill when our last despatches left New York.

Private letters from Colonel Johnson, of the Utah expedition, describes the Mormons as manifesting a decided intention to set up an independent government of their own, and expresses an earnest hope that supplies will be forwarded to him at as early a day as practicable. A large train with supplies, and two regiments of infantry and two of cavalry, had already left Fort Leavenworth for Utah.

The Virginia Legislature had passed a bill fixing the 1st of August for the general resumption of specie payments in that state.

A letter from New Orleans says:—"Senor Comonfort, ex-President of Mexico, and General William Walker, ex-President of Nicaragua, now both residing in this city, have an eye on Mexico. Comonfort will furnish the necessary funds to raise an army, and General Walker is to take the command. One of their officers has already gone to Texas to take up the remains of a filibustering army which had been formed in that country for the late struggle in Nicaragua. They intend to subdue the whole country, and to form a double-headed presidency—of course, after they succeed."

The British cruisers had captured several slavers.

A STRANGE STORY FROM SUMATRA.—A singular story is told in a letter from the Hague of the 5th ult.:—"The Dutch war-steamer *Merapi* has made a fresh expedition against some English filibusters, who had at first established themselves at Sialak, in the island of Sumatra. They were afterwards driven out, but on the departure of the troops sent against them, they established themselves in the island of Bankalis, where they fortified the village of Clapa Pahi, hoisted the English flag, and levied contributions on the native fishermen for the support of their Malay and Chinese soldiers. The *Merapi* was sent again to the place, having on board the resident governor of Bior and a Dutch commissioner, and arrived there on the 18th of December. Negotiations ensued, but finally the Dutch troops landed, and found that the English had evacuated the place. The story requires further elucidation.

SEIZURE OF A FRENCH SLAVE-SHIP.—The Portuguese authorities have seized a French vessel, named the *Charles Georges*, belonging to St. Malo. It appears that this vessel was laden with a cargo of 110 natives of the Comoro Isles, whom she was conveying to servitude in the Réunion Island. A Portuguese ship-of-war boarded her, and notwithstanding the remonstrances of an official agent of the French Government, she was condemned as a slave-ship, ordered to be sold, and her crew placed in confinement.

THE VICTIMS OF THE RUE LAFITTELETTER PROTEST.—A bill has been presented to the French Corps Legislatif for granting pensions to those who were injured by the explosion of Orsini's grenades, or who have been deprived of their nearest relatives by death from the wounds thus inflicted. It appears that 160 persons were more or less wounded, of whom nine have died. Five of these were men who have left widows and orphans; four were unmarried men. There are also thirteen persons who have been permanently crippled or disabled for life. It is proposed to give each widow a pension of 1,000 francs yearly for life, and to the parents or children of the deceased a pension of 600 francs each. The persons crippled receive a pension of 600 francs, except one man, who, his injuries being especially serious, receives a compensation of 1,000 francs a year.

MR. ALLSOPP IN AMERICA.—According to the "New York Evening Post," of March 31, Mr. Allsopp was still in New York, and no attempt had been made to search him out. Moreover, "he is not guilty of any offence within the purview of the Extradition Treaty. Conspiracy in one country to murder a man in another country, is not an offence within the scope of that treaty. The statement that there are officers of the English or French Government here, despatching to abduct Allsopp, is simply ridiculous. An attempt even, in this direction, would be a *casus belli*, which our administration, now bankrupt in the line of popularity, would gladly avail itself of. Allsopp is poor. He brought out about 300 dollars with him. He has been a political agitator of indelible pretensions. His return to Europe is the last thing that either the English or French Governments will busy themselves about."

SCIENCE MANIA IN CALIFORNIA.—For some time back there has prevailed a perfect mania in California for the commission of suicide. "It got to such a height that the chemists took to furnishing emetics, and other inconvenient but harmless drugs, to the applicants for poison, in lieu of prussic acid and strychnine. For some time we had one suicide a day." One of the most remarkable cases is that of an Irishman, who was unfortunately in quartz mining. A lady writes:—"As Mrs. Brennan was totally unacquainted with her husband's financial condition, she knew nothing of his embarrassment; and when he told her of his situation and what he meant to do with himself, the shock caused her to feel faint, and she lay down on the sofa. At this time, he handed her a glass of claret, with the deadly poison in it, which she drank, thinking it was only wine, and that it would revive her. A loaded pistol was on the table, for use in case she had not drunk the wine. After drinking she clutched her hands, and struggled some time, when he put the pillow over her face and smothered her; then saturated a piece of sugar with the poison, and gave it to the child. Then he took the eldest child, a girl, and administered the sugar to her. He then called the boy Bobby into the room, but he ran out, crying, 'Oh, mamma!' But the father followed him, calling him his little man, took him up in his arms, carried him back, and gave him some sugar, and smothered him." It is added that the servant girl, who was preparing lunch in another apartment, "did not think there was anything unusual in these actions." After killing his family, Brennan secured all the doors, wrote some letters, and then took a fatal dose of prussic acid.

THE INDIAN REVOLT.

THE CAPTURE OF LUCKNOW.

THE progress of the capture of Lucknow up to the 13th inst. is given in the late despatches left India may be described in comparative few words.

The Commander-in-Chief had held back judiciously until he had ascertained that the forces of General Franks and Jung Bahadur were well up, and thereby preclude the rebels, driven down on the 12th, from breaking through in a southerly direction. On the 13th of March, the Commander-in-Chief placed himself at the head of an army of 10,000 strong, 25,000 of which were Europeans, with 100 guns, and on the 3rd a heavy force under Sir Colin Campbell, and on and occupied the Dilkusha Palace and gardens between the Dilkusha and Lucknow, and within two miles of the latter, and the rebels resistance. On the 6th Sir James Outram crossed the Ganges, and Goonitee some way south of the town, and moving northwards, took up a strong position on the further side of the river, but the rebels stoutly resisted and suffered considerable loss. He was then on the opposite bank of the river, which is only a few miles from the Residency. The force of General Franks arrived from the north, and on the 10th, Sir Colin Campbell and the division under Sir James Outram, the Bahadur with the Goorkha force followed a few days afterwards, completing the circuit to the south. On the 8th the enemy attacked Outram in great force. They were repulsed, but not without some loss on our side. Sir Hope Grant now made a wide sweep with his cavalry and horse artillery to the north-east, but experienced no resistance. Sir James Outram having now effectually turned and enfiladed the enemy's first great line of works, the Martinière, in advance of the Dilkusha, was, after a heavy cannonade, stormed by the second division under Sir Edward Lugard. The action was almost wholly one of artillery, and our loss was slight. The following day, the 10th, Franks's force in the direction of the Residency, was stormed, and here the resistance was very obstinate. General Outram now commenced scaling the Kaiserbagh, and in three days were occupied. On the 13th, the palace was stormed, after a severe contest of many hours. On the 14th, the Queen's palace was captured, the 42nd and 53rd Highlanders leading the assault. Our casualties in killed and wounded amounted to about 100, including Captain Moorson, of the Staff; Captain Cook, of the Rifle Brigade; Captain McDonald and Sergeant-Major Hudson, of the 42nd Highlanders. The enemy lost about 500, with twenty guns. Immediately after the capture of Kaiserbagh, on the 16th, a day was run under the Imambarra, a former residence of royalty. It was afterwards breached by artillery, and stormed. On the 14th, it was reported that the enemy were streaming out of the city in torrents, and Brigadier Campbell, who was in a favourable position on the left of Alumbagh, started in pursuit with a strong force of cavalry and horse artillery. At two o'clock on the morning of the 15th, Brigadier-General Sir Hope Grant advanced at the same time with 10,000 sabres and two troops of horse artillery towards Seetapore, to intercept the fugitives Campbell might turn aside from their line of flight. On the 16th, an infantry brigade and heavy battery were ordered to Seetapore on the direct road for Rohildund, and there to halt for instructions; her Majesty's 75th being ordered at the same date to start from Cawnpore to Meerut.

A later telegram informs us that Lucknow was wholly in our possession on the 16th; 117 guns had been captured, and 2,000 of the rebels slain. Mrs. Orr and Miss Jackson had been rescued. The submission of the principal landholders had been accepted. About 50,000 of the enemy escaped, making for Rohildund and Bandelone. The army was in pursuit of the rebels. The delay of Sir H. Ross's force for three weeks at Sangor prevented the line of troops intended to intercept the enemy from being closed up.

The result of throwing Outram's force across the Goonitee was, that the principal works of the rebels were completely enfiladed, and they thus fell an easy prey to assaults in front. Sir James, by changing his positions on the left bank of the Goonitee, was enabled first to enfilade the long line of entrenchments on the canal, which were taken with little opposition; next the Martinière; and finally the Kaiserbagh.

Jung Bahadur, with his auxiliary force of 10,000 Goorkhas, reached Lucknow on the 7th of March; his first division crossing the Goonitee on or about that day, the second being close at his heels. His whole force moved into line on the 11th of March. The Goorkha districts are not yet quieted, as we hear that a large force of rebels and sepoys made an advance on Gorakhpore on the 5th. They were routed, and pursued for seven miles by Colonel Rowcroft, whose force was composed of Goorkhas, a part of the Naval Brigade, and the Yeomanry Cavalry. The slaughter of the enemy was very great, and eight guns were taken. Our loss was small.

Previous to his junction with the main force, Franks beat the rebels signally at Chanda, as related in our last number.

THE VICTORY AT MEANGING.

The column under Lord Hugh Rose achieved a considerable success on the 23rd of February, as we have before mentioned briefly. A few miles from the main road between Cawnpore and Lucknow, and on the left flank of our lines of communication, lies the town of Meangning. It is surrounded by a wall of masonry, fourteen feet high, with numerous bastions running round the place, for a mile or more in circumference. The column arrived before the place and proceeded to invest it, and at the moment of our approach about 200 of the enemy's cavalry, which were stationed outside, disappeared and did not even retain an attitude of observation. This squadron consisted of parties of the 12th and 3rd Irregulars and some regular troopers. Inside the town were 2,000 sepoys and irregulars. In pursuance of general instructions the leaders of our columns seem more careful of life than hitherto, and make more extensive use of artillery in actions with an enemy who ever rely on walls for their protection. Our guns were got into position about nine o'clock, and at noon there was a practicable breach in the walls. The 53rd Regiment, covered by the fire of all the guns attached to Grant's force, rushed at the breach in gallant style, and the moment they entered the enemy fled, but they were not outside as they poured from every exit by the sabres of our cavalry and by the grape of our cannon, and between 400 and 500 were cut up and killed ere they could escape in the high standing crops all around the place. Our whole casualties were under 20 killed and wounded.

SIR HUGH ROSE'S ADVANCE ON JHANSI.

Sir Hugh Rose left Sangor on the 1st of March for Raghvas, twenty-six miles to the north-west, and encamped in the neighbourhood of a small hill fort and village, which, after a short skirmish and bombardment by Captain Macdonnell, were carried, with the loss to the enemy of fifty killed and fifty-two prisoners. On the 3rd the march was resumed, and the force moved from Raghvas in the direction of Jhansi, through the pass of Mudipore, in front of which lay a body of the enemy, supposed to be 9,000 strong, with six guns in position, amidst thick jungles, and surrounded by a deep trench. The enemy opened on the advance of Sir Hugh, and our artillery replied with shot and shell. This after a time caused the enemy to disperse, and they were charged up the hill by four companies of the 3rd Europeans, led by Colonel Liddell. The rebels made but little resistance after this charge, but fled into Mudipore, sharply pursued by the cavalry and part of Major Orr's Irregulars. They never rallied till they got to Seraj, a small fort in the neighbourhood. But even this seemed to them insecure, and in the night they evacuated it, leaving quantities of guns, grain, and ammunition behind them. On the 5th, the force advanced, still in the direction of Jhansi, to Murrowra, where there was a strong fort; the town, besides, being partly surrounded by water. The enemy, however, did not wait here any more than at Seraj, and retired to Shohelour. In the action of Mudipore, General Sir Hugh Rose had his horse shot under him. Our latest news of Sir Hugh Rose is that on the 21st of March he was within twenty-five miles of Jhansi; 20,000 rebels were said to be in his front.

PANIC IN CALCUTTA.

A correspondent of the "Daily News" says:—"It will perhaps be scarcely credited that on the night of the 2nd of March there

was a panic in Calcutta. Monday, the 1st, was a great Hindoo festival, the Hoolie, during which it is the custom of the lower orders of Hindoos to indulge in all kinds of excesses. It is usual on the first of each month to send detachments from Barrackpore to relieve the garrisons in Fort William. It was reported to General Hearsay that the men had been overheard using seditious language, and that there was a plot on foot to make an attempt on the Fort at the time of the relief, when the relieving guard and the guard to be relieved would have the opportunity of uniting. The Rajah of Rampore, who had arrived by the last steamer from England, and who had been arrested a few days previously, was to have been rescued, and a regular sack of the city was of course to ensue. Arms were to have been supplied by a Savak living in the suburbs. Late at night the volunteer guards were summoned from their beds, and to their infinite credit, assembled to a man at the appointed rendezvous in an incredibly short time, but the alarm caused by this proceeding kept Calcutta awake all night, and has again created a deplorable feeling of insecurity. Every one examines at the idiotic policy of keeping four unarmed native regiments at Barrackpore, drawing their full pay, doing nothing but hatching plots, and requiring a royal regiment and a field battery to keep them in order.

THEIR MAJESTIES OF DELHI AND OUDE.

The trial of the King of Delhi still proceeds. The evidence of some of the witnesses is worthy of note. Lieutenant Martineau deposed that he commanded a musketry depot of instruction, and in frequent conversations with men of different regiments had convincing proof of their discontented and even mutinous disposition. He duly reported these conversations to head-quarters, but no notice whatever was taken. Another witness disclosed that an Abyssinian had been employed by the King of Delhi to convey letters to the King of Persia, proposing an alliance for expelling the British from India, and that the aggression on Herat was in consequence of this correspondence. Several witnesses deposed that months before the mutiny broke out, it was generally believed in Delhi that the Persians would invade India, and that the entire British Indian army was waiting but a signal.

The King of Oude has been endeavouring to obtain release from "duress vile" by means of the law. His legal adviser, Mr. Newman, applied to the Supreme Court for a writ of *habeas corpus* to issue to Colonel Cavanagh, the town major and royal jailer, to bring up the body of Suckut Roy, Dewan of the ex-King. In the event of this application being successful, a similar one was to have been made for the King himself. But the Chief Justice refused the writ. The King is most closely guarded in the fort, and not a scrap of feed is allowed to be taken to him until it has been carefully examined. Similar precautions are of course taken with the prime minister and arch-intriguer, Ali Nukee Khan, in whose hands the King is believed to have been a mere tool.

THE LADIES OF THE AGRA GARRISON.

An Agra convoy have arrived at Cawnpore, and thus one great cause of anxiety was removed from the mind of the Chief. "These ladies and their little ones," says a correspondent of the "Times," "have been a most embarrassing ingredient in Sir Colin Campbell's calculations. At Lucknow he was in a fever at the various small delays which they considered necessary. In order to make a proper effect, most of the ladies came out in their best gowns and bonnets. Whether 'Betty gave the cheek' a little touch of red or not, I cannot say, but I am assured the array of fashion, though somewhat behind the season, owing to the difficulty of communicating with the Calcutta modistes, was very creditable. Sir Colin got fidgety when he found himself made a *maître d'étiquette* and an *arbitre morum* among piles of band-boxes, 'best bonnets,' and 'these few little clothes trunks;' but he sustained his position with undiminished fortitude, till at length, when he thought he had 'seen the last of them' out of the place, two young ladies came tripping in, whisked about the Residency for a short time, and then, with nods and smiles, departed, saying graciously, 'We'll be back again presently.' 'No, ladies, no; you'll be good enough to do nothing of the kind,' exclaimed he; 'you have been here quite long enough, I am sure, and I have had quite enough trouble in getting you out of it.' The Agra ladies ought to have been ready long ago."

THE WAR IN CHINA.

At Canton there is little change of the situation. The Chinese are wondering as much as ourselves why "that Emperor no hab talkee." Some of the better informed had made sure of hearing his Majesty's views by the 19th or 23rd of February. As to popular demonstrations, we hear of none. Braves are said to be gathering here and gathering there. The allied garrison was to have been extirpated on the 14th instant, the first of the Chinese year, but the only part of this formidable force that has, as yet, shown itself, is a body of some two hundred, that were surprised some way north of the city, by a party of officers who had been out on an excursion attended by a small escort. The latter were fired upon, but the only loss sustained was on the side of the assailants.

Whether the four plenipotentiaries will proceed north is still doubtful. The arrival of an Imperial Commissioner (if one be indeed on the way) would of course delay the proposed expedition.

Mr. Anstey, the attorney-general at Hong-Kong, was about to proceed to Swatow, there to make inquiry in person as to certain brutalities alleged to have been perpetrated upon Coolies by British subjects.

Mr. Reid, the United States Minister to China, was adopting vigorous measures to suppress the Coolie traffic altogether, so far as American subjects were concerned.

NEW EUROPEAN REGIMENTS FOR BENGAL.—The Court of Directors have resolved to raise three double European regiments for the Bengal Presidency. These new corps will absorb the officers of six of the disbanded native regiments; thus, in some measure solving the difficulty as to what is to be done with the unattached officers.

THE FAILURES IN AMERICA.—The "New York Herald," of the 30th ult., publishes a list of the failures which have occurred in the United States from the 1st of January to the 26th of March of the present year. The number of failures for the first eighty-five days of the year was 1,193; and the total amount of liabilities is set down at \$6,639,000 dollars. If we add to this forty-five failures in the British provinces, figuring up 1,661,000 dollars more, we have the grand total for the United States and Canada of 1,549 failures, and \$1,733,000 dollars of liabilities.

MURDER BY SLAVES.—Mr. Maxwell, an American slave-owner, had occasion to "correct" two of his negro women, and he gave them a whipping. He then called him away from home that day, and he did not start on his return till late in the evening. On arriving within a mile from his home, he was suddenly confronted by three of his negro men, who had waylaid him, and who began to attack him with clubs, the only weapons they had. He drew his knife and made a desperate and courageous resistance, cutting one of his assailants in the hand and another in the arm. This only roused them to greater fury; they knocked him down, and ended by beating his brains out, killing him instantly. Leaving his body in the road, they kindled a fire, and burned the instruments of their crime. The murderer's woman was then captured.

A TRAVELLER'S ESCAPE.—A fugitive of Orshovi, near Vienna, was returning from market, he stopped at a roadside public-house, and inadvertently showed the innkeeper a large sum of money which he had received. In the night the innkeeper, armed with a knife, stole into the farmer's chamber, and prepared to stab him; but the farmer, conceiving suspicions of foul play, had thrown himself fully dressed on his bed without going to sleep, and no sooner did the innkeeper appear than he wrested the pointed poniard from him, and killed the would-be murderer. A few moments after the farmer heard some stones thrown at the window, and a voice, which he recognised as that of the innkeeper's son, said, "The grave is ready." The farmer therefore wrapped the dead body in a sheet, and let it down from the window; he then ran to the gentleman's room, and stated what had occurred. Three gentlemen returned with him to the house, and found the young man busily engaged in shovelling earth into a grave. "What are you doing?" said they. "Only a noise, which has just died!" "You are mistaken," answered one of them, jumping into the grave and raising the corpse. "Look!" and he held up a hand to the face of the deceased. The young man said it was his father, and confessed all.

DISASTERS AT SEA.

The accounts received on Saturday at Lloyd's describe a most fearful gale to have swept the Irish Channel, occasioning the loss of several ships with many lives.

Near Dundrum Bay three ships were wrecked. The barque *Mary Stoddart*, from Alexandria, was driven ashore to the westward of Dundalk Lighthouse, and it is feared that the crew have perished. Another barque, the *Silvia*, Thompson, bound to Newfoundland from Liverpool, was lost on Cooley Point, Dundrum Bay, and the whole of her crew perished. She was laden with salt. A third fatal wreck happened at Killybeg, The brig *Triton*, bound to Barcelona from the Mersey, went upon the rocks and soon went to pieces, four of the crew meeting with a watery grave. Off Cooley Point, during the heavy weather, a boat containing four men, supposed to be Newry pilots, was capsized by a heavy sea, and the whole of the unfortunate fellows perished. Off Kinsale, it was feared that the *Fortunate* from Liverpool for Monte Video, had been lost, as a portion of the hull was reported by the pilots to have been seen a short distance out from the coast. Nothing has been heard of the crew.

From Cahoon we hear of the wreck of the *Pearl*, which was carried over a reef of rocks, and placed in such a position that it was impossible for any boat to approach her. She was not 200 yards from the shore, and the people on land were occupied for three or four hours at a line thrown from the ship, by which means five men were rescued.

The advices from the various ports all speak of the fearful violence of the gale.

The shipping on the north-east coast of Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, &c., has also suffered from the recent bad weather. On Thursday week, a heavy gale was blowing from E.S.E. The brig *Coburg*, belonging to Whitby, bound to Runcorn, from the Tyne, was driven ashore near Bridlington, and broke up. The crew were saved by the life-boat. The *Maurice*, coal-burner, from Shields to Dieppe, in attempting to run into Scarborough for shelter, went on the beach on the west pier. The crew were also saved by the life-boat of the port. The brig *Anda*—Sunder, master—belonging to London, foundered off the mouth of the Humber. She was bound to Hamburg from Shields. The crew were enabled to take to their boats, and were picked up.

THE PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.—An account has been issued of the gross public income and expenditure for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1858, together with the balance in the Exchequer at the commencement and at the termination of the year, and the amount of funded or unfunded debt created or redeemed in the said year. The gross public income for the year was £27,881,513 3s. 3d., and of the expenditure, £20,378,859 1s. 8d. The excess of expenditure, including bonds, &c., on income in the year was £2,497,345 18s. 5d. The balances of the public money in the Exchequer on the 31st of March, 1857, amounted to £8,668,370 14s. 7d. On the 31st of March, 1858, the balances were £6,657,802 1s. 2d.

IRELAND.

THE DUBLIN RIOT.—The trial of the Dublin policemen for their assault upon the students of Dublin University has been postponed until June, "the case not being ripe." Colonel Browne, the Commissioner of Police, underwent a long examination on Friday. In the course of his examination he said:—"I take the responsibility of all that occurred on myself. I gave the order, and am accountable for what happened. Two or three men, no doubt, acted intemperately, but the whole blame ought to be thrown on me. I regret that has been done—a regret that will go with me to the grave. I have a great regard for the collegians; and to the last moment of my life I will remember their kindness." Upon this the counsel who was cross-examining the Colonel said:—"After that expression of regret, Colonel Browne, I, as a gentleman, shall not ask you another question." Colonel Browne was much affected; so was the counsel; so were the students in the court, and testified to the fact in a round of applause. We hear, however, that of fourteen students and private gentlemen who were identified by the police, eleven have been sent for trial.

SMITH O'BRIEN TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.—Mr. Smith O'Brien has addressed another manifesto to "the people of Ireland." He proposes that "three hundred of the ablest and most patriotic men in Ireland should meet in permanent session in Dublin to deliberate upon the special interests of Ireland." "Such a body would exercise infinitely more influence over the deliberations of Parliament than can be possessed by the few representatives" sent by the Irish people to London!

MURDER CONFESSED.—A man, named Cullinan, has confessed to the murder of a servant woman, at Ardagh, county of Limerick, about three weeks since. He had travelled with her on the mail-car from Abbeylee to Newcastle, and, having heard from her that she was going to visit her daughter-in-law, who was going to Australia, he thought she had a large sum of money with her, which led him to perpetrate the outrage.

A DANGEROUS VESSEL.—The screw steam-ship *Abouari* arrived off Kinsale harbour on Sunday, having on board 700 men under orders for India. She had the yellow flag at the foremast head, indicating that there was contagious sickness on board, but she remained outside the harbour until the officers went on board to inspect her and have her placed at proper moorings under the regulations of the quarantine laws. It was now ascertained that only one man was affected with smallpox. Our readers will remember that the disease made its first appearance some time previously on board the ship, when she embarked her complement of troops at Gravesend for Calcutta. The entire body of troops were immediately disembarked, and, after a medical inspection, such of the troops as were found to have been affected—seventy in number—were despatched to the military hospital at Chatham. The remainder of the troops were re-embarked, and the vessel put to sea; but it would appear that when off the coast the disease re-appeared, and the captain decided on bearing up for the nearest port, which was Kingstown.

SCOTLAND.

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.—A boy, ten years of age, who was committed to the Dumfries prison for stealing six turnips, hung himself from an iron bar in his cell. From the loose way in which the handkerchief was tied to the bar and round the neck of the poor child, and the fact that the stool by which he had climbed up so as to fasten the handkerchief had fallen, it is inferred that the boy did not intend to commit suicide, but to pretend doing so, in order to get removed from his cell to one in which he would find a companion.

DESTITUTION IN GLASGOW.—Upwards of 10,000 heads of families have been relieved since November last by the committee for the relief of the unemployed. Taking into account the other members of those families, an aggregate of from 10,000 to 30,000 individuals has during that period been provided with the necessities of existence.

SAD.—The body of a good-looking man, comfortably dressed, aged between thirty and forty, was lately found under the Stockwell Bridge, Glasgow. Among several letters found on his person, was one written in a woman's hand, and dated January 30, 1858. It began with "My dear Robert," and was signed, "Ever yours, Janet." "You signed yourself 'yours faithfully.' Your faith has to be proved yet. I am afraid, had you been more faithful to yourself and me, you would have looked better after your own interest, and kept a stricter watch over your actions. But the end of March will prove whether you have been faithful or not, as it must then be decided if and when we are to be married or part for ever. If it must be the latter, your death would have been a pleasant sadness compared to be severed by your own actions."

A MINUTE TOO LATE.—Mr. Willis, a merchant of Glasgow, had long suffered from ill-health, and at length gave orders for the preparation of a will. This document, under which, it is said, several public institutions were to be considerably benefited, was duly drawn out and taken to Mr. Willis by his solicitor. Witnesses were present, and everything was ready for the completion of the instrument; but no sooner had the testator taken up a pen to affix his signature, than he suddenly fell back and expired.

A FEMALE POACHER.—As the gamekeeper at Tiliachewan Castle, near Glasgow, was making his early rounds, he found a hare fast caught in a powerful trap, set near a farm-house. Poaching for hares had been suspected upon this farm. A watch was duly set. At day-dawn a "female form" was seen to approach, preceded by a collie dog, which at a sign from its mistress made a wide circle round the trap; and discovering that danger was near, returned and conveyed a sense of it to his mistress, who cautiously retreated. An hour elapsed; again woman and dog made their appearance, and again the dog, which had evidently been trained to the work, sniffed danger in the passing breeze. A dexterous flank movement was now made by the gamekeeper; and another hour having elapsed, the woman made a third attempt to recover the trap and what it might contain. This time canine sagacity yielded to human cunning; the dog was out-maneuvred; and believing that all was well, his mistress stepped forward, in an evil moment lifted the trap and hare, and in the next had the hand of the gamekeeper placed gently on her shoulder. We spare her blushes in recounting what ensued. In brief, she confessed her faults and was forgiven upon paying some small sum to the poor of the parish.

THE WESTERN BANK.—The liquidators of the Western Bank of Scotland have made preparations for paying, by the beginning of May, the depositors and creditors of the bank one-half of the debts due to them; in other words, they will pay 10s. in the pound of the total debt.

THE PROVINCES.

THE TRUCK SYSTEM.—At Wolverhampton last week six information, were laid against Enoch Meehan, a "butty," or charter-master colliers employed at Bilston, for paying colliers' wages in flour, groceries, and other provisions. A collier's wife proved that of 5s. wages due she only received at the defendant's "tommey-shop" 1s. 3d. in money, and the rest in goods; of 10s. 6d. only 2s. 6d. in money, and so on. The defendant was convicted in a penalty of £6 in each case, and £1 extra costs. Other cases were gone into against different persons with the like result; and in these cases, in default of payment, the alternative was three months' imprisonment.

A STRANGE DEPOSIT BANK.—In a trial at Gloucester, of two women for robbing a man who trusted himself in their company, it appeared that one of the accused had sewed £70 in bank-notes, part of the plunder, in the lining of a cloak; this valuable garment she pledged in London for two shillings, making the pawnbroker her unconscious banker. The cloak was subsequently redeemed by the woman, under the surveillance of a policeman; and the prosecutor recovered the £70.

JUVENILE DELINQUENTS IN YORKSHIRE.—The West Riding has been remarkably backward in the movement whereby so much has been done for the reformation of juvenile delinquents. It appears that there are 127 young culprits committed by the justices to reformatories, of whom nearly 100 have had to be sent to reformatories in other counties. At the Spring Sessions in Pontefract, Mr. Edmund Denison and Mr. Monckton Milnes brought this "disgraceful" state of things under notice. Mr. Denison thinks that the West Riding should have a reformatory of its own, capable of accommodating from 300 to 400 youthful offenders. Nothing was done at the meeting except to give a Committee authority to arrange for the placing of offenders in any reformatory school, and to pay the expense thereof out of the county-rate.

EXTRAORDINARY SUICIDE.—George Screech, a miner of Beaufort, South Wales, had for some weeks been out of work, and had grown rather low-spirited. He lodged with Richard Greenland, another miner. One day last week Mrs. Greenland had to leave her house for a minute or two. As she passed the door, she noticed the deceased going hurriedly towards the staircase, and immediately an explosion was heard, shattering the house to pieces. The roof was completely blown off, its fragments being scattered in all directions; the windows were torn out, the walls shattered, and the lower rooms filled with a dense suffocating smoke. It was remembered that Greenland kept gunpowder in his bedroom; and at that time had a considerable quantity in two casks. A search was made in the ruins of the house, and Mrs. Greenland's infant, which she had left in a cradle in a lower room, was found alive, but the clothes were on fire, and the poor little thing was half choked with the vapour. Screech was found amongst the ruins frightfully burnt and mangled, but still alive and conscious. Previous to his death, which occurred some six or seven hours afterwards, he confessed that he had caused the explosion, and must have been tempted by the devil. Determined to destroy himself, he took the tongs, drew a red-hot coal from the fire, carried it upstairs, and threw it into an open cask of gunpowder, which was under the bed. He forgot the baby. On the inquest on the unhappy man's body, the jury returned a verdict of "Felo de se," and the remains of the unhappy man were interred in unconsecrated ground, and without funeral rites, at ten o'clock at night.

COTTON SUPPLY.—The first annual meeting of the Cotton Supply Association was held on the afternoon of Friday week, in the Town Hall, Manchester, at which a report of the proceedings during the past year was read and approved. Resolutions, encouraging the promotion of this movement, were passed. On the platform were several persons of note, including Sir James Brooke, of Sarawak. A dinner at the Queen's Hotel wound up the first anniversary celebration of the society.

MURDER AND MADNESS.—At Berkswold, near Birmingham, a bricklayer returned home late at night from his work, and let himself in; presently his wife, whom he thought was in bed, came in, and said, "Sam, wherever have you been! I have been looking everywhere for you. Lord, the child is dead!" (This she repeated several times.) "I have hung it the same as Atkins." Her husband said, "Never!" but it was so. The child had been strangled with a piece of tape. The poor woman was deranged, of course.

BURGLARY AT CHELTENHAM.—The premises of Messrs. Moses, jewellers and silversmiths, of High Street, Cheltenham, were entered by some expert "cracksmen," who possessed themselves of upwards of 200 gold and silver watches, hundreds of gold chains, rings, and brooches, a quantity of silver plate and miscellaneous jewellery, altogether valued at upwards of £1,800, with which they got clear away. A reward of £100 is offered for the capture of the offenders, who are supposed to be a London gang.

THE FIRE IN BLOOMSBURY.

The adjourned inquiry into the cause of this calamity was held on Friday week, when evidence of a very remarkable character was adduced.

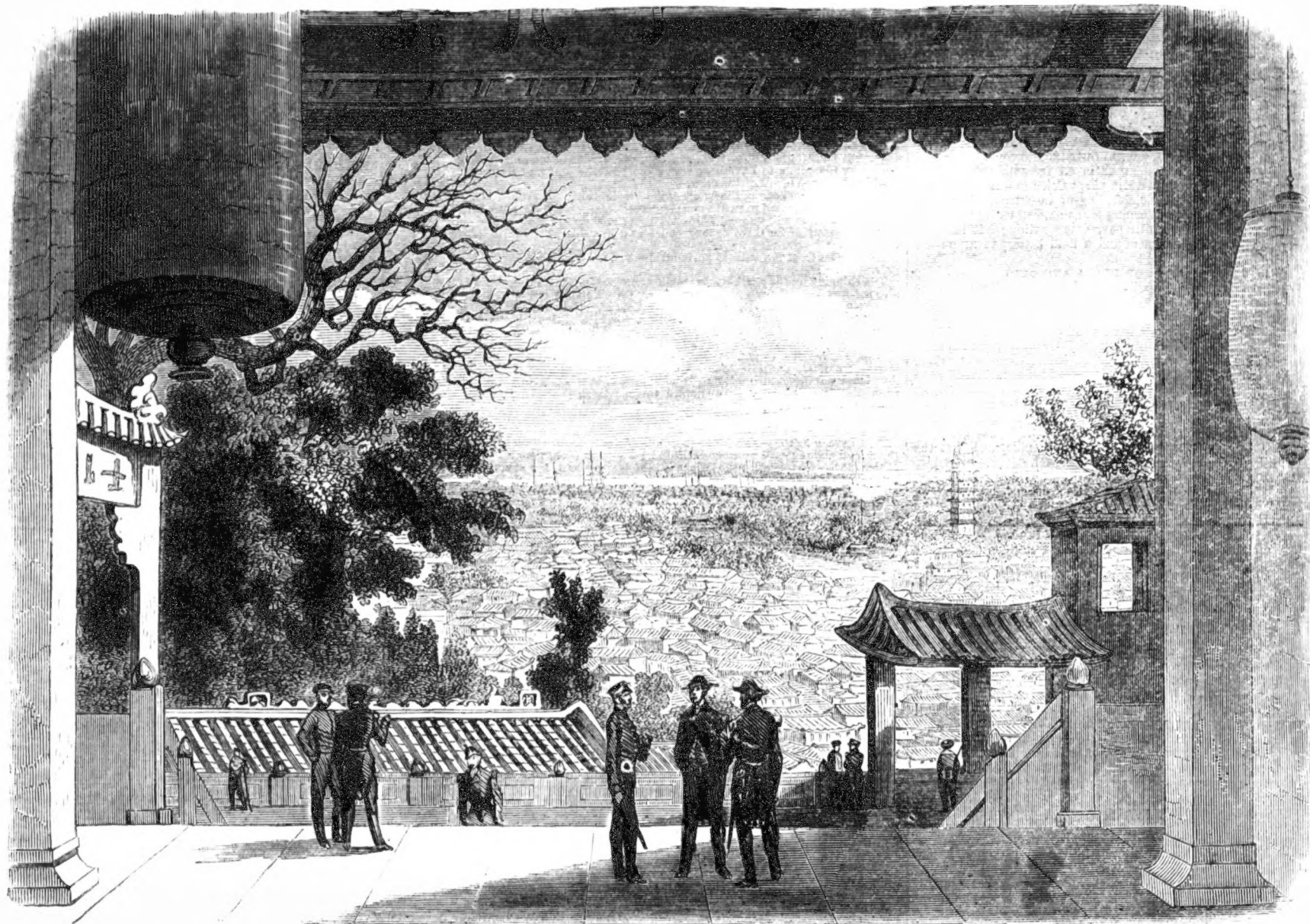
After Mr. Bennett, surgeon to the St. Giles and Bloomsbury Infirmary, had botched the jury with a most scientific report of an examination he had made of the bodies of several of the deceased, Mr. Rogers, analytical chemist at St. George's School of Medicine, was called, and gave evidence as follows:—"I was present during the post-mortem examination of portions of about eight of the bodies, and I took certain parts of five of them away with me for chemical analysis, namely, of William and John Hedger, Richard Smith, sen., Mrs. Smith, and Harvey Smith. I believe that I have discovered the cause of death. The first thing I noticed was an absence of the usual appearances of death consequent on suffocation. There was a redness of the muscles and redness of the blood, whereby I apprehended that there must have been an inhalation into the system of some unnatural and unusual fluid. I therefore went and examined the premises to see if there could have been any matter of a poisonous character used in the carpenter's shop or elsewhere, but found no traces whatever of any. In a room, however, adjoining the immediate locality of the fire, I learnt that some minerals had been destroyed. This room was in the occupation of Mr. Culvert, a mineralogist, who informed me that a very considerable portion of his minerals had been consumed. These minerals when heated, he (Mr. Culvert) observed, threw off a large quantity of fumes of arsenic. There are several pounds' weight of arsenical ores, and an ounce and a half of arsenite of cobalt, besides tellurium, silicon, sulphur, and nitrate of potash. My opinion is, that the effect of fire on these substances would produce a direct tendency to disengage, and cause combustion, which would immediately disseminate large quantities of poisonous fumes. On these grounds, therefore, I believe the cause of death to have been the inhalation of poisonous vapours ascending from these burning minerals, and which, by producing immediate prostration and utter inability on the part of the sufferers to move, allowed the effects of smoke from the burning timbers to accomplish their deaths more speedily and effectually. Secondly, the redness of the blood is a satisfactory index of death from some other cause than that of suffocation. If they had died from suffocation, the blood would have been of a dark colour, which is not the case in these instances, except in that of William Hedger. I know of no exception to this appearance in cases of suffocation. Subjects when preserved by arsenic evidence this remarkable evidence of colour. Solution of arsenic injected into the veins will render all the tissues; I have therefore no hesitation in stating it as my belief that the chief instrument causing the death of four out of the five bodies or portions of bodies analysed by me was the poison of arsenic. Vapours from burning wood, which contain carbonic acid, acting on a system already prostrated with poisonous gas, would greatly abbreviate the duration of life.

Mr. Rogers's evidence was confirmed by Mr. Girdwood, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. Arsenic, he said, acted as a narcotic poison when inhaled.

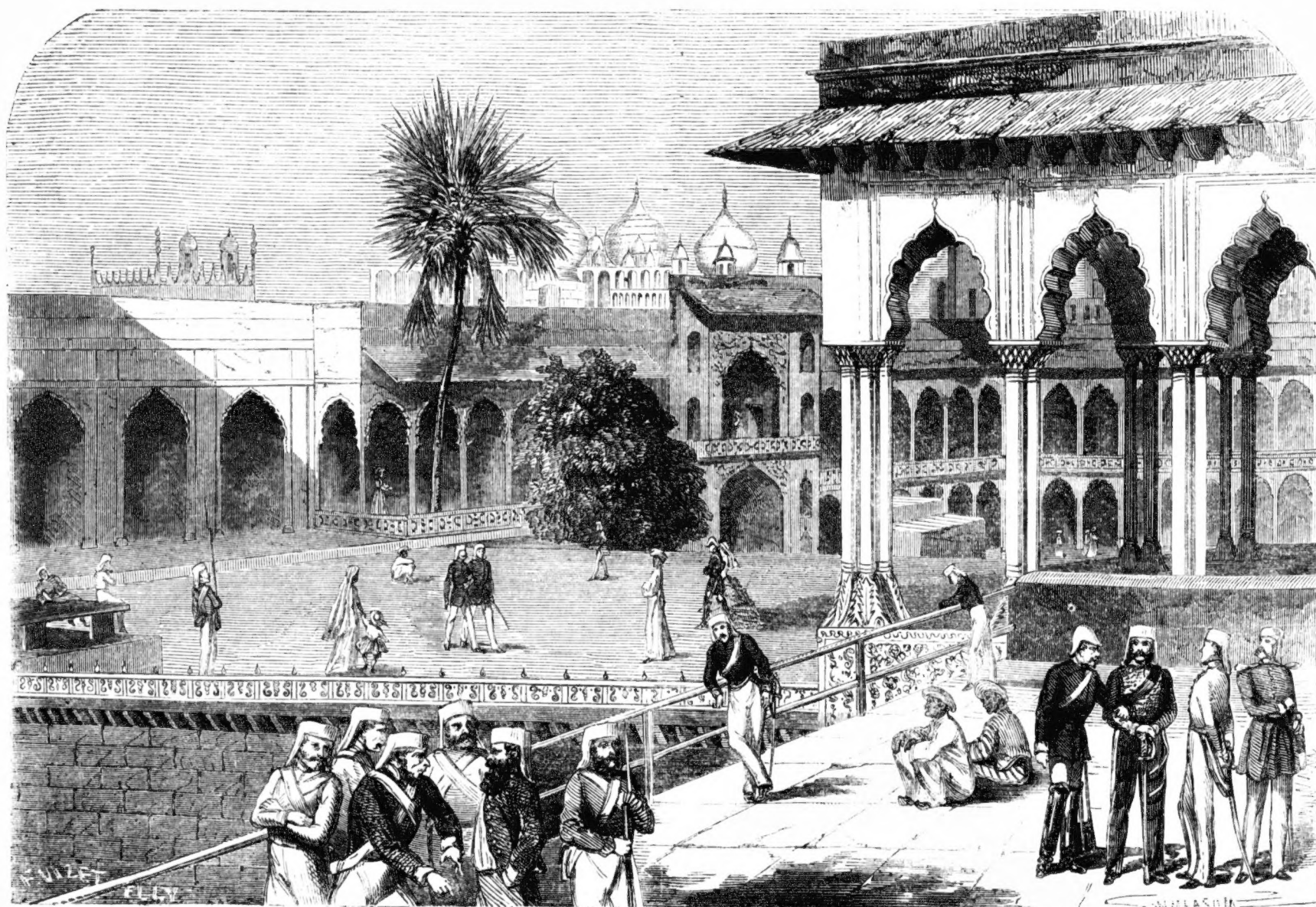
Mr. Culvert, to whom the minerals belonged, deposed that he lived in the next house to that destroyed by the fire; and that he had in his cabinets about twenty different sorts of minerals containing arsenic, some of which would be easily converted into vapour by heat. The partition between his premises and the house where the deceased dwelt, was only of wood, half an inch thick, and covered with canvas and old newspapers. He had complained to his landlord (also the landlord of the premises destroyed) about this. It appeared that the witness had erected a stove in his museum, and about this stove the jury were very curious.

The inquiry was then adjourned to Monday, the 20th, the Coroner warning Mr. Culvert and Mr. Taylor (the landlord), that they had better attend at the next examination with legal advisers; as if the accident could be shown to have arisen from carelessness, parsimony, or any other similar cause, a criminal charge might be made.

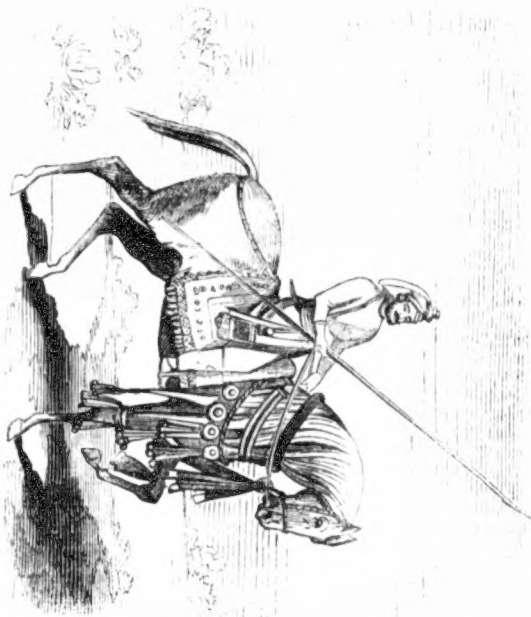
THEATRICAL IMPROVISE.—A glaring imposture has been detected in a performance at the circus at Paris, which has for months been drawing crowds of spectators. A man who called himself "l'homme canon" professed to sustain on his shoulder, as on a gun-carriage, what seemed to be a piece of ordnance of the calibre of a ten-pounder, which, loaded with a full charge of powder, was discharged within a few inches of his ear. The shouts of applause at the explosion were instantaneous, but to the professional ear there was a want of sufficient simultaneity between the flash and the report. To the professional eye there was also an absence of recoil which a full charge must create. It now appears that a mere Roman candle was shot from the gun, while immediately under the stage a tin box, crammed with powder, was made to explode among sand-bags, while the smoke circled round the intrepid performer.



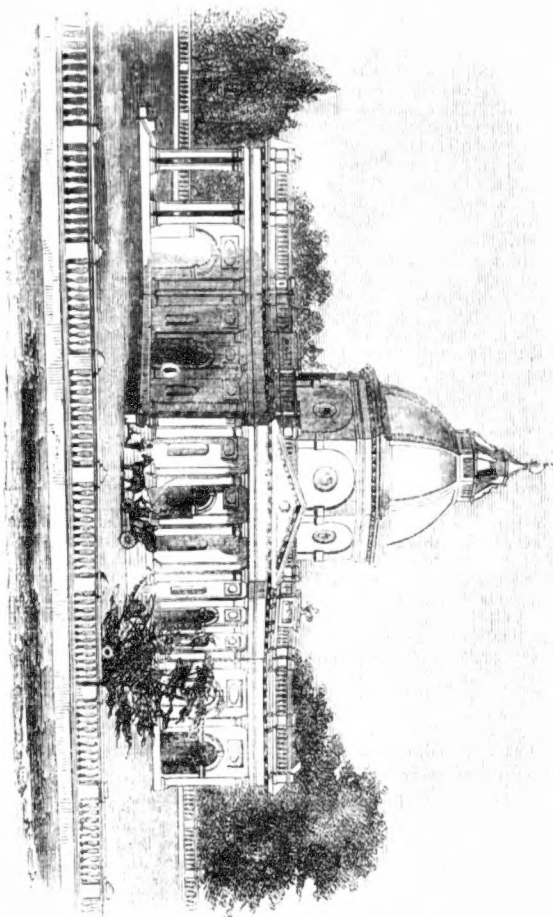
VIEW OF CANTON, FROM THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE ALLIES.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. G. ROUX.)



INTERIOR OF THE FORT AT AGRA.—(FROM A SKETCH BY PRINCE SOLTYKOFF.)



MAHARATTA WARRIOR.



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, DELHI.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.)



ELEPHANT OF GUDE.

THE CITY OF LAHORE.

When the Indian mutiny first broke out, great apprehension for the safety of the Punjab was excited. It was thought that the warlike and "turbulent" Sikhs—whose territory had so lately been added to our empire, after a contest which we found very troublesome, to say the least of it—would be among the first to add fuel to the fire. It was known, too, that our officers in the Punjab could oppose no effectual resistance to an outbreak; the few British troops would have been massacred to a man; while, as for the reconquest of the country, distant would have been the day when we could have boasted of any material success against the rebels, if the Sikhs had been engaged against us, and not in our behalf.

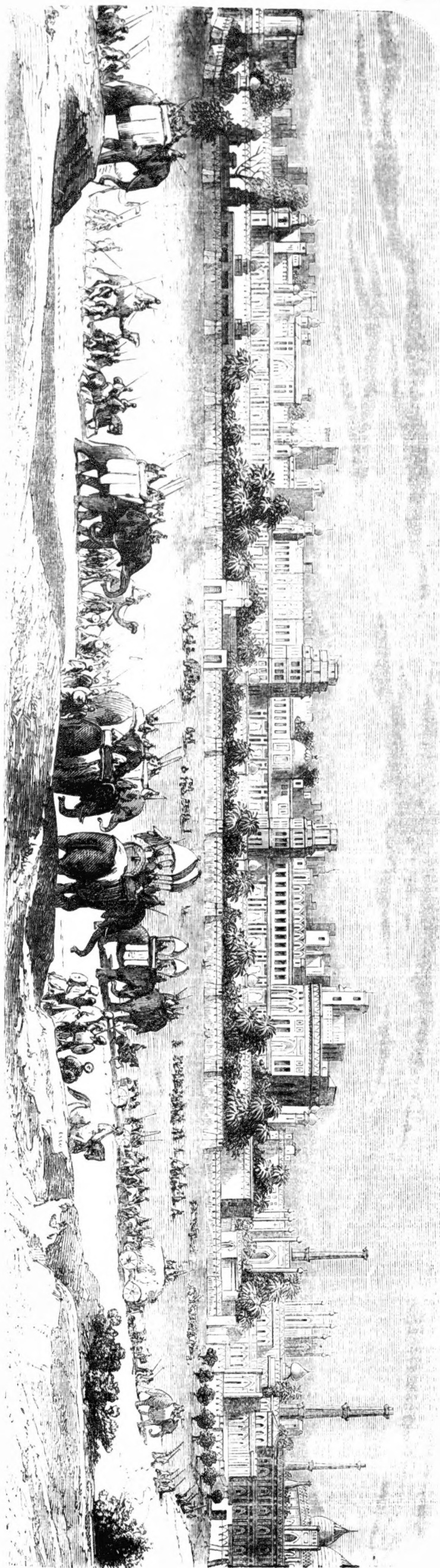
How the misfortunes which would have resulted from the disaffection of the Punjab, were averted by the wisdom and vigour of Sir John Lawrence and Mr. Montgomery, we have already described in a recent number, and need not therefore now repeat the tale. Enough

that in the first place the fort and city of Lahore, at one time in imminent danger of being given up to rebellion, was preserved; and that afterwards the whole surrounding country was pacified; and not only pacified, but turned to good account, in furnishing brave and loyal soldiers for duty in the revolted districts. The very last mail brings new testimony to the bravery and fidelity of the Sikhs. We read that "Captain Rothney and his gallant regiment, the 4th Sikhs, were the means of saving Ludiana from utter destruction. They were on their way down to Delhi last June, when they came to Jullundur. The Brigadier hurried them off to Flior, lest their presence should make the sepoys' regiments uneasy. The Sikhs went on their way, and the regiments in question mutinied the next day, and attacked them at Flior. Another infantry regiment stationed there turned against them, but Rothney held them at bay until his ammunition was expended, when they crossed the Sutlej to Ludiana. They were joined by all the badmashes (*Anglice*, scoundrels) in the city, and those jacks, the Kashmiris,

began to plunder right and left. Muhammad Hassan Khan, who distinguished himself so much at Cabul, under Colin Mackenzie, harried his house, took up arms with his followers, and joined the deputy commissioner, Mr. Kiekeris, who called in some of the petty Rujals in the district, and did their best to save the city and cantonment from utter destruction. One of the Afghan princes protected the native Christians in his own house. In the evening Rothney's Sikhs came up, and thrashed the mutineers in spite of overpowering numbers. They scoured the country, cutting up all the mutineers they could catch, and hanging the Kashmiri plunderers, as they themselves express it, *beh-quita-qu*, "without any dialogue." Rothney and his Sikhs, having cleared Ludiana, went on to Delhi, and were the first reinforcement which the besieging force received. The very day they arrived the flight of our line, including the Guides, were in imminent danger of being cut off, being very hard pressed, and their ammunition exhausted. "The Sikhs came up with a yell

—they had plenty of ammunition, and with their assistance the enemy was driven back." (On another occasion the mutineers from the city came upon a party of Sikhs cooking. The former threw aside their arms, and cried "Come to us, we are your brothers." The Sikhs said nothing, but when the mutineers came up killed every one. What makes the fidelity of these men the more remarkable is that the Hindoostanis of the regiment turned traitors on arriving at Delhi, and, in spite of their previous good behaviour, in one of the first actions they fired upon their native officers.

Lahore—the capital of the district from whence our Sikh friends are enlisted—is a large walled city, situate on the south bank of the Ravee. The streets are narrow, and the houses, though lofty, are generally mean. It has however some remarkable buildings. The museum of Jehangire is magnificent, and in good preservation, and there is another handsome tomb, that of Noor Jehan Begum, on the south side of the city. There are numerous mosques, the domes and



VIEW OF LAHORE.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.)

minarets of which give the city at a distance an imposing appearance, which is not altogether confirmed by nearer inspection. The population is stated to amount to 90,000.

Under the Mogul Emperors the city was of much greater extent than at present. In 1748 it fell into the hands of Ahmed Shah: in 1798 Runjeet Singh became governor or rajah. After the final defeat of the Sikhs in 1849, the city was taken possession of by the British.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, DELHI.

This church, which was totally destroyed at the very outset of the recent mutiny, was built about eighteen years since by the late Colonel Skinner of the Irregular Cavalry. If we mistake not, it was the scene of the ministrations of the Rev. Mr. Jennings, who, with his daughter, was among the earliest victims sacrificed by the treacherous rebels.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. NO. 68. THE INDIA BILL—A PERPLEXITY.

NEVER in our experience has any measure excited so much surprise in the House as the India Bill proposed by the Government. It has been the subject of general talk, and we have not heard a single member applaud the measure. The Opposition proper could not conceal their delight when they saw the bill; the Radicals sneered at it with contempt; and even the Conservatives, when they could be induced to express an opinion, did little more than "damn with faint praise" this extraordinary product of Conservative statesmanship. "Who could have drawn up such a measure?" "How did it get through the Cabinet?" are questions which have been asked over and over again. That such a measure would pass was felt to be impossible from the first; but what to do with it was a question not so easily settled. If the Liberal party were compact and united, and ready for battle and for victory, the question would soon have been disposed of. A meeting would have been called—a resolution come to to oppose the measure, defeat the Government, and take the helm. But the Liberal party is not united—far from it; and therefore, though the India Bill offered so fine an opportunity for a struggle, it seemed to be very doubtful up to the moment when the holidays commenced, whether the Opposition would be disposed to fight. Indeed, it was questionable whether it could fight with any prospect of success; for compact and formidable as it looks in the House, everybody knows that at present it is neither compact nor formidable. Many a sepoy regiment, at the time of the outbreak of the Indian mutiny, looked irresistible on parade, which at the critical moment rushed into mutiny, and perhaps shot its officers. And formidable as the Liberal party looks, ranged on the left of the Speaker, tier above tier, with all its officers in front, we all know that it is not to be relied upon, and that if the trumpet should sound for battle, instead of moving to the attack "shoulder to shoulder," it would break out into open mutiny, and perhaps fire upon its leaders. This is the "fix" parties were in at the commencement of the holidays. A Conservative Government which had just come into power, had suddenly and quite unexpectedly offered a most tempting point of attack; but so far from the Opposition being ready to take advantage of the blunder, it was evidently rather annoyed that it should be called upon so soon to fight. "The blackheads!" said one of the Opposition to us, "why did they propose an India Bill at all? There was no occasion for it. They might most reasonably have pleaded want of time for so grave a business, and just taken their supplies, and dismissed the House early in July. Nobody could have objected to such a course; indeed, nobody wished to object to it; it would have suited all parties." However, there was the bill, and something must be done with it. To allow it to pass was out of the question; to defeat it would be to turn out the Government; and then, who was to take the reins? Truly, it was a most perplexing position.

WAR DETERMINED UPON.

It appears, however, that during the recess it was determined by the late Government and its adherents to fight the bill, and to defeat it if possible; and it was confidently hoped that, notwithstanding the known disorganisation of the Liberal party, when once the magical sound of the trumpet should be heard summoning the hosts to battle, and the "old flag" should be displayed, this disorganisation would cease, and all sections of the great body of reformers would rally round their chiefs as they have been wont to do. This resolution was not publicly announced. Indeed, it was the wish of the Palmerstonians that it should be kept secret. But it oozed out somehow—was known in the clubs at the end of last week, and was hinted at in the columns of a well-informed paper on Saturday. But here again, Lord Palmerston and his followers, as they have often done lately, "reckoned without their host." Lord Palmerston seemed to think that the late division, which turned him out of office, was an accident—that he was still the popular chief that he was twelve months ago—and that if he could only once more fairly lift up his banner, all the party would again rally around him. We say seemed—for surely now he has discovered his mistake. If not, if the event of Monday night did not open his eyes, he must be blind indeed.

OUT-MANŒUVRED.

On Monday night, the first night after the recess, the House met as usual, at four o'clock. The business of the evening down upon the paper, was first, the navy estimates, and secondly, the Oaths Bill. The estimates would occupy the greater part of the time; on the Oaths Bill there was, it was understood, to be neither debate nor division. We had therefore every probability of a dull and dreary night. No nights in the House are so dreary as those on which the House quietly sets itself to the work of voting money. For two hours or more you have the head of some department droning on an introductory speech to about a hundred members. When he sits down, the majority rush off to dinner or home, and then you have a dull conversation, carried on principally between the said head of the department, and the erudite Mr. Williams, the Radical member for Lambeth. On Monday night, then, our prospects were not lively. But it was noticeable, that not only the Ministers but the members of the late Government were down in great force; and it was also remarked that Lord John Russell was, contrary to his usual practice, down very early. It is true that the Oaths Bill was on the paper, but as it was clear that the bill could not be brought on until late, it was also clear that it was not that which brought his Lordship down so soon. It also could not fail to be noticed that there was a good deal of conversation of an earnest sort going on, both on the Treasury bench and amongst the leaders of the Opposition. Members were whispering into each other's ears, and gesticulating about something of importance. And all these things put together, made the knowing ones soon suspect that, in street phrase, "something was up." And there was a good deal of gossip below the gangway and in the lobbies, as to what was brewing. Disraeli himself, however, sat as imperturbable as ever. You never see any signs of interest or emotion in that cold, immovable countenance of his. And yet, of course, he knew what was coming—of that, there cannot be a doubt. He knew that he was in a difficulty about his India Bill—a difficulty that might lead to a defeat and abdication. And he also knew that he was about to be delivered—and doubtless, inwardly, he "rejoiced therefore." But he gave no sign of joy, nor indeed of the slightest emotion; but whilst his followers around him were leaning over each other's shoulders and earnestly whispering in each other's ears, he sat immovable as a statue. It was about five o'clock when he arose to announce the arrangements of the public business. "He had fixed his budget for Friday, and the second reading of the India Bill for Monday; but he had to announce that the budget would come on on Monday, and some other arrangements would have to be made. He would fix as early a day as possible for the India Bill—after the financial statement had been made." The clerk then called out "Supply report." And then it was that Lord John Russell, who sat in his usual place below the gangway, arose, and made his famous suggestion that the House should go into committee and adopt some general principles on the future government of India. To simple observers in the gallery there was nothing remarkable in this suggestion,

nor would they be able to see that it was fraught with any very important consequences, or that there was anything like party manoeuvring therein. There are two measures before the House on a most important subject: what so natural as that an experienced statesman like Lord John should wish to have ample opportunities to discuss this subject? And what could be more true than that the way to legislation should be cleared and made easy by the adoption of certain definite principles on which India in future shall be governed? But the members saw the whole thing at once. They saw that not only was this proposition good, and statesmanlike, and proper, but a dexterous piece of policy, which would completely defeat the Palmerston manoeuvre, save the Derby Government for a time, give opportunity for the Liberal party to make up their differences, and increase the chances of Lord John Russell's advent to power. Lord Palmerston had set sail on an expedition without consulting Lord John, and now Lord John takes the wind out of Lord Palmerston's sails. It was droll enough to notice the effect of Lord John's announcement upon the House. Disraeli, of course, did not move a muscle; nor would he if a hand grenade were exploded under his nose; his followers looked up with well-simulated surprise. The Palmerstonians also affected astonishment. The "Indians" cheered, of course, with unaffected delight at this unexpected deliverance—for a time—and the Radicals and other Anti-Palmerstonians chuckled aloud over this prompt and clever defeat of the machinations of Brookes's Club. And when Disraeli arose, and with that solemn gravity of his, which he so well knows how to assume when he has a part to play, accepted the Noble Lord's suggestion, and with honeyed terms of flattery proposed that his Lordship should himself move the resolutions, the force was complete, and the House could not refrain from a burst of laughter. Mortified at being thus out-generated, the late Government attempted to recover its ground. Sir Charles Wood assailed the Noble Lord's suggestion—Sir Benjamin Hall "wanted to know" whether Mr. Disraeli meant to withdraw his bill—Mr. Ellice thought that a discussion in committee would be a work of time, &c., &c.—but it was all to no purpose, the House was clearly with Lord John, and the Palmerstonians were confessedly beaten.

OATHS BILL.

Late in the evening the Oaths Bill, familiarly known as the "Jew Bill," was read a third time and passed; without debate or division. To the wonder of all, Newdegate was silent—and Spooner only slung his shoulders. Lord John was in high feather that night. It is hinted that Lord Derby means to allow the bill to pass the Lords.

Imperial Parliament.

MONDAY, APRIL 12.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS re-assembled on Monday, but little business was done.

TRANSFER OF ESTATES—THE LAW OF PROPERTY.

On considering the Report of Amendments on the Transfer of Estates Simplification Bill.

Lord CRAWFORTH moved the rejection of the first clause of the bill, and the twelve clauses following and depending on it. After some discussion, in which the clauses were opposed by the Lord Chancellor and the Earl of Derby, they were negatived without a division. The report was then received.

The order for going into committee on the Law of Property Amendment Bill was discharged, on the motion of Lord St. Leonards's. Their Lordships then adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CAGLIARI AFFAIR.

In the House of Commons, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated, in answer to Headlam, that some very important documents relative to the case of the Cagliari had arrived early on Saturday morning; that they had been submitted to the law officers of the Crown, and in consequence of the arrival of these documents, he was not able to lay their opinion before the House at present.

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

On the report of the Committee of Supply, Lord J. RUSSELL, addressing to the Government of India Bill, and to the objections which, he said, it had generally provoked, observed that if the bill was pressed to a second reading, the discussion of those objections would have injurious effects. He thought it most desirable that some method should be devised, by which the House could arrive at a conclusion without raising an injudicious debate. In a similar case, in 1813, preliminary resolutions had been proposed by the Government and adopted in a committee of the whole House, and this seemed to him the most convenient course on the present occasion. He thought, too, that it would save time in the end. If the Government did not think fit to adopt this course, he felt so strongly the inconvenience and difficulty of discussing at once any bill upon the subject, that he should himself propose resolutions embodying the chief points of a measure for the government of India.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER observed that the proposition of Lord J. Russell was obviously a very convenient one, but the late Government having proceeded by way of bill, and as it seemed to be the general feeling of the House that no unnecessary delay should take place, the present Administration had also brought forward the plan they recommended in the shape of a bill. On the part of the Government, however, he would consent to propose resolutions, unless (which would be more agreeable to himself) Lord J. Russell would do so, for which purpose a day should be at his service. He suggested that day fortnight or the Friday following.

Lord J. RUSSELL said, although he had offered to propose resolutions, it was an office which belonged properly to the Government.

Sir C. WOOD insisted that the resolutions should be proposed with the authority and on the responsibility of the Government. He was surprised that Mr. Disraeli should have admitted the possibility of the Government delegating its functions in this matter to any individual member. Moreover, he was not so clear as Lord John Russell as to the advantage of proceeding by way of resolutions.

Mr. ELICE concurred with the opinions expressed by Sir C. Wood. Mr. WALPOLE said that the purport of Mr. Disraeli's remarks had been misunderstood. He said that he would not shrink from the responsibility of proposing the resolutions—a function which he (Mr. Walpole) admitted properly belonged to the Executive Government.

After some remarks by Mr. Mangles and Mr. Ayrton, Lord PALMERSTON said he thought the method of proceeding by way of resolutions not applicable to the present state of things; that it was contrary to the ordinary practice of the House, and would be an inconvenient precedent.

Mr. BOUTWELL asked whether the resolutions were to be different from the bill or not? If different, was the bill to be given up? or were there to be three distinct propositions before the House?

Sir B. HALL asked Mr. Disraeli whether he intended to abandon his bill?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, his intention at present was to propose his resolutions that day fortnight; but he did not intend to give up his bill, believing that, after the discussion of the resolutions, the House would adopt the bill, with modifications.

The conversation here dropped.

ARMY AND NAVY ESTIMATES.

On the order for going into Committee of Supply on the Navy and Army Estimates.

Mr. W. WILLIAMS, after a severe criticism of the estimates, which he charged with extravagance, moved that they be referred to a select committee.

Sir J. PAKINGTON opposed the motion, which was negatived by 161 to 24. The House then went into a Committee of Supply upon the Estimates.

Sir J. PAKINGTON, in moving the navy estimates, admitted that they were very high; but, after full consideration, he said that it was the opinion of the present Government that it would be a wise course not to propose a reduction of them. He concluded by moving the first vote, for 59,380 men and boys, including 7,380 in the coastguard service, and 15,000 marines.

The discussion raised by this vote extended to the whole of the estimates; and the policy of maintaining our naval establishments in a state of efficiency and readiness to meet an emergency was strongly urged by Sir C. Wood, and enforced in pointed terms by Mr. Drummond.

Lord PALMERSTON agreed that the insular position of this country rendered naval protection essential to its security; but in considering what should be the application of the funds voted for naval purposes, preference, he thought, should be given to the preparation of materials, the building of ships, and the augmentation of dockyards and stores, rather than having a greater number of men actually employed. The reductions and retrenchments proposed by the present Government, in his opinion, were not wise or prudent.

Sir J. PAKINGTON said the Government had no intention to stop ship-building.

Mr. HORSMAN insisted that, although a war with France was highly probable, we should be secured against accidents and possible contingencies. There was no cause for alarm, but great reason for precaution.

The vote and certain money votes to complete the estimates were agreed to.

The Oaths Bill was read a third time and passed.

TUESDAY, APRIL 13.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE LAW OF LIBEL.

Lord CAMPBELL moved the second reading of the Law of Libel Bill. He explained the provisions of the measure, which extended to reports of debates in either House of Parliament, and of certain public meetings, the same legal immunities now enjoyed by accounts of proceedings before the judicial tribunals.

Lord TANSWORTH urged many technical objections to the measure, of which, however, he approved in principle.

Lord WESSLEYDALE opposed the bill, and moved as an amendment that it should be read a second time that day six months.

Earl GRANVILLE, considering that the measure was founded on a sound principle, suggested that it should be allowed to pass the second reading, and then referred to a select committee.

The Lord CHANCELLOR opposed the bill; which was supported by Lord CRAWFORTH.

The motion for the second reading was negatived by a majority of 34 to 7—28.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

OUR BLINDING EMBASSY AT TURIN.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, in answer to Mr. Wise, that there was no intention to recall Sir James Hudson from Turin, but that Mr. Erskine, the secretary of legation, had been recalled to this country to answer for his conduct, and had been suspended.

THE STRAITS SETTLEMENT.

Lord BURY called attention to the condition of the settlements in the Straits of Malacca, viz., Penang, Singapore, and Malacca, commonly called the Straits Settlements; and the expediency of divorcing these settlements from the control of the Indian Government, and placing them under the immediate control of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Mr. BAILEY urged the expediency of the military establishment of the settlement as a reason for leaving it under the control of the Government of India. However, he promised that the Government should consider the matter.

THE STADE DUES.

Mr. J. L. RICARDO moved that an address should be presented to the Crown, respectfully representing the injury to British commerce inflicted by the tax levied by Hanover on merchandise and shipping ascending the river Elbe, under the denomination of the Stade dues, and praying that her Majesty will be pleased to give directions to her Ministers to give notice of the termination of the treaty between the United Kingdom and Hanover of the 22nd day of July, 1844, according to the terms of the eighth article of that treaty.

After considerable discussion, it was resolved to appoint a committee of inquiry.

CORRUPTION.

Sir J. TRELAUNY moved the following resolution:—"That the receipt of any species of reward by a member in consideration of the exercise of his influence in that capacity is calculated to lower the dignity and authority of this House, and is a high breach of the privilege of Parliament." He adverted to a recent inquiry before a committee of that House, and urged the importance of protecting the British Parliament from even a suspicion that justice was sold there to the highest bidder.

After a pause,

Lord HOTHAM observed that this was a subject of manifest importance; that there was a general belief on the part of the public that practices did take place which he thought it was the duty of the House to endeavour to put a stop to. He specified the nature of the imputations which, he said, he had heard made against some members of the House of the legal profession.

Sir J. GRAHAM said he did not think any new resolution upon the subject was necessary. Distinguished Members of the House as agents for the colonies had received a pecuniary reward for their influence in that House without being held to have violated the rule. A new resolution was not required to meet any gross case, while it might give rise to misconception.

Mr. BRIGHT, Lord PALMERSTON, Mr. WALPOLE, and Mr. J. D. FITZGERALD, concurred in the opinion that the present rule was sufficient for the purpose. The motion was withdrawn.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TENANT COMPENSATION (IRELAND) BILL.

Mr. MAGUIRE moved the second reading of this bill. He said that the effect of the existing system in Ireland was to perpetuate persecution and tyranny. Tenants were made dependent that landlords might demand their services on the day of election and have complete control over them. Numberless acts of wrong had been done under this system to tenants from religious motives, or by those who prostituted religion for their own miserable objects.

The O'DONOHUE seconded the motion. All Ireland was in his favour.

Sir J. WALSH said the bill, if passed, would be an entire confiscation of the rights of property. He moved that the bill be read a second time this day six months.

Mr. J. D. FITZGERALD supported the second reading of the bill, which he agreed with in principle, if not in detail.

Lord PALMERSTON opposed the measure, as did also Lord NAAS. The debate was ultimately adjourned to the 9th of June.

THURSDAY, APRIL 15.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE FRENCH PASSPORTS.

The Earl of MALMESBURY, in presenting the correspondence between the English and French Governments on the subject of passports, described the arrangements which the Government proposed to establish with regard to the system. The Government proposed to increase the number of persons from whom certificates of identity could be obtained, on which application to the Foreign Office could be made. In addition to magistrates and bankers, as at present, all clergymen of different Christian denominations, physicians, surgeons, solicitors, and notaries, would be authorised to certify the identity of persons wishing to obtain passports. Agents would be appointed in the chief cities to deliver the passports of the Foreign Office; and the Government proposed to reduce the cost of these documents to 2s.

The Earl of CLARENDON said he had been informed that the stamp duty of 5s. on each document was imposed by statute, and could not be remitted. The Earl of MALMESBURY stated that a special act was to be introduced, reducing the duty to 1s.

After some further remarks from Earl Grey and Earl Granville, the subject dropped.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE TRINITY BOARD AND ITS DUTIES.

Lord C. PAGET complained that the Trinity House discharged its duties with respect to the lights, buoys, and beacons on the British coasts, in an unsatisfactory manner; and his Lordship moved that the House should resolve itself into a committee for the purpose of considering an address to her Majesty, praying that the functions of the Trinity House might be transferred to the Government, and its expenditure to the public revenue.

Mr. HENLEY combated some of Lord Clarence Paget's arguments, but promised that a Royal Commission should inquire into the matter.

Mr. LINDSAY insisted upon the injustice of taxing the shipping interest as a body for lights which it was the duty of the nation to maintain.

The motion for further inquiry was supported by Mr. Cardwell and Lord Palmerston, and opposed by Mr. Lowe and other gentlemen. It was withdrawn.

TRIBUNALS OF COMMERCE.

Mr. AYTON moved for a select committee to inquire respecting the expediency of establishing tribunals of commerce, or for otherwise improving the administration of justice in disputes of a commercial nature.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL was of opinion that such tribunals would not be satisfactory to this country, though he did not object to the subject being investigated.

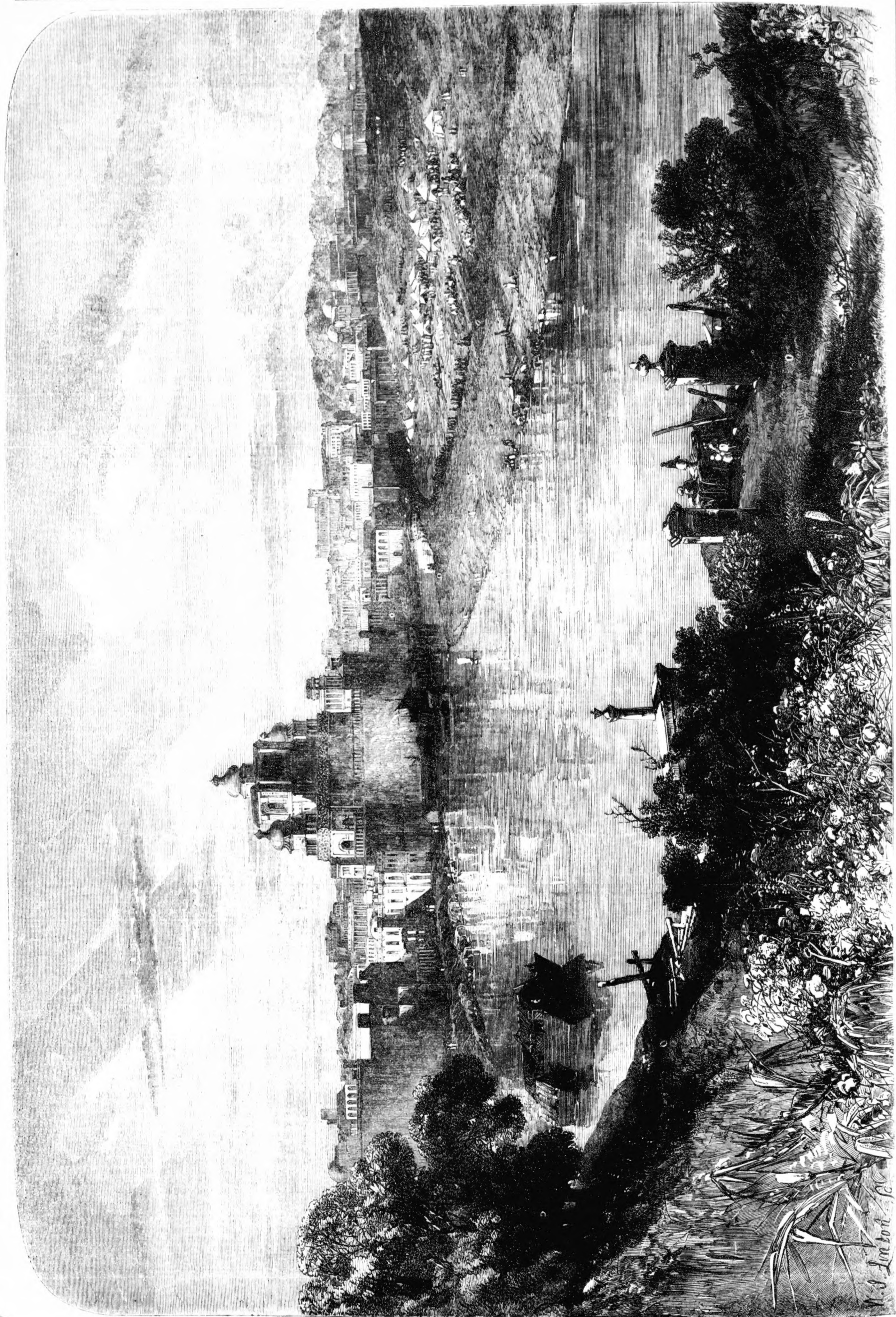
Lord JOHN RUSSELL expressed his concurrence with the views of the Solicitor-General.

The motion was agreed to.

CHANCERY LITIGATION.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the course of procedure in the Court of Chancery.

IN THE CASE OF THE CAGLIARI, it is affirmed on one hand that the present law officers of the Crown have given an opinion opposed to that of their predecessors, and on the other it is denied that they have as yet given in any opinion.



CHURCH MUSEUM, LONDON, ON THE GROUND. (FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.)

W. J. L. L. L.



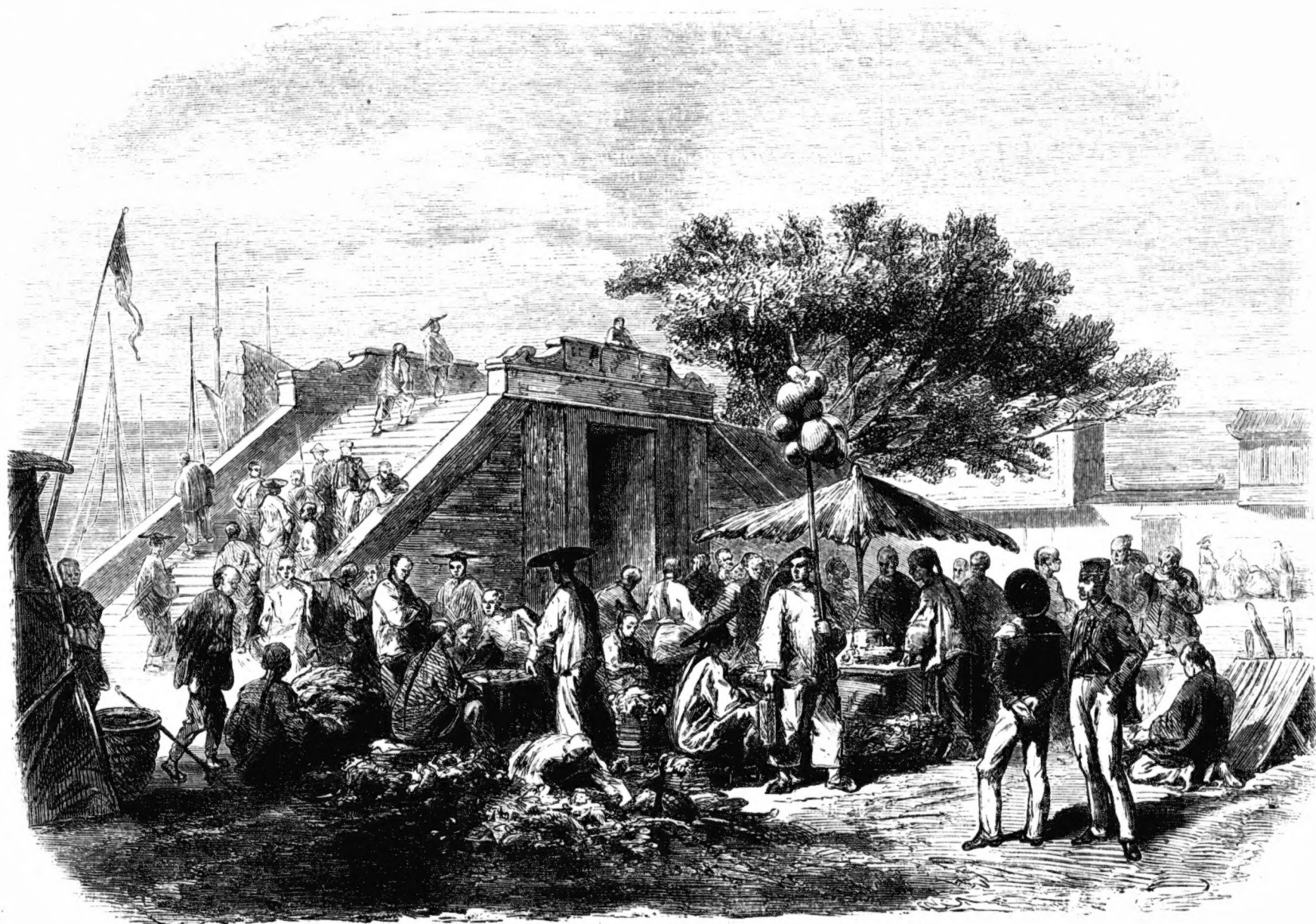
STREET TRAFFIC IN CANTON.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. A. BORGES.)

STREET TRAFFIC IN CANTON.

THE traffic in the streets of Canton is enormous, even when compared with the scenes we who live in London are familiar with. There are vagrant barbers; there are itinerant cooks, tailors, hawkers—people of all trades; there are swarms of porters—of beggars: all making a hideous hubbub in the regular pursuit of their avocations. Thus in Dr. Yvan's interesting sketches made "Inside Canton" we read:—

"We came out on a sort of market, the aspect of which agreeably surprised me: it was a very little fish-market. In large tubs were swimming enormous round-headed chub-fish, resembling large tadpoles, and succulent *gouramiers*, which Creole sensuality has already naturalised at Bourbon. Beside these swimming gentry, then unknown to me, I again beheld the vigorous frogs and long-necked turtles of the bazaar at Macao. . . . My guide did not allow me to stop, but

pushed me, so to speak, into Physic Street. On falling into this gulf, I lost all consciousness; I experienced something analogous to what a drowning man feels. Without reflecting, without uttering a word, I allowed myself to be carried along by the human current, which flowed between the two banks of houses. Lost in the midst of this stream of shaven heads, hanging queues, long and short robes, and yellow faces, the owners of which were fanning themselves, I felt nothing, I



BRIDGE AND FRUIT-MARKET AT CANTON.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. A. BORGES.)

saw nothing, and I allowed myself to be rolled along by the current, as a corpse or the trunk of a tree, is carried down a river!" It was a lake that had overflowed its banks, and ran between two sinuous and irregular rocks. And yet, in these waves of population, among this compact crowd, we did not see a single woman, a single child, a single carriage, a single wagon, a single horse, a single dog, or a single cat: we beheld only men—everywhere men: men in silk robes, men in pointed hats, men fanning themselves, men loaded with goods, or chair-porters.

"I stationed myself at the door of the shop to watch the interminable procession which traverses incessantly the streets of Canton, as it filed past me. The passengers were little citizens, wearing the long blue robe, the violet camail, and the black silk cap; members of the lower classes, dressed in blue nankeen; beggars covered with rags, or dressed in rattan mats; hawkers, itinerant barbers, dentists, restaurateurs, and dealers in sweetmeats. In the midst of these plebeians moved mandarins carried in their massive chairs by four robust young fellows; rich merchants and young literary men, comfortably installed in their chairs of light bamboo. At certain times portable cells strongly excited my curiosity; they were veiled from all eyes, and presented so discreet a physiognomy, that I presumed they contained the joys of the interior apartments. I was not mistaken. They were young women going out to pay visits. They were usually accompanied by one or two dunnies, who walked between the shafts of the palanquin, hiding their faces with their fans. . . . Before the shops, at every street corner, and along the houses, were to be seen groups of beggars, blind men keeping close to the walls and guiding themselves by a pole, jobbing tailors patching up and mending old clothes, and barbers shaving some decrepit old man, or curling the hair of some street fashionable. The beggars enjoy a singular privilege at Canton: they may station themselves at the door of any shop, singing and striking their pieces of bamboo against each other for hours together, while the proprietor has not the right to drive them away! These poor devils are not obliged to move off until they have received alms!"

Our illustrations on the preceding page faithfully represent the stalls of the street cooks and one of the many markets of Canton.

THE TRIAL OF SIMON BERNARD.

The trial of "Simon Bernard, aged 41, surgeon, charged with feloniously inciting, moving, and procuring, counselling, &c., one Felice Orsini and others, to do and commit certain felonies—to wit, to kill and murder certain parties at Paris in the empire of France," commenced on Monday. There was another indictment charging him with unlawfully conspiring with one Felice Orsini and others feloniously to kill and murder a sovereign prince—to wit, his Imperial Majesty Louis Napoleon Emperor of the French.

The prisoner was tried by special commission; and Lord Chief Justice Campbell, Lord Chief Baron Pollock, Mr. Justice Erie, Mr. Justice Crowder, the Lord Mayor, Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Lawrence, Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Allen, Alderman Sir F. G. Moon, Alderman Sir C. Marshall, Alderman Salomon, Alderman Hale, Alderman Finnis, Alderman Gabriel, Alderman Phillips, Alderman Wire, the Recorder, the Under Sheriffs, and other civic functionaries presided. The prisoner elected to be tried by a jury of Englishmen; and the jury being impanelled.

The Attorney-General rose amidst the silence of a very crowded court, and opened the case for the Crown. He said—Simon Bernard stood before them charged as an accessory before the fact with the crime of murder. He (the prisoner) was a native of the south of France, and appeared to have been in early life a surgeon in the navy. He had passed a considerable portion of his life in his own country; but at length, proscribed in his native land, he sought and found a refuge in this. Here he resided with safety to his person, security to his property, and protected by the laws of this country; and if it should be found that the prisoner at the bar had conformed himself to the laws of this country, let him depart from the court unharmed; the painful duty had been cast upon him (the Attorney-General) to lay before the jury evidence in connection with the indictment against the prisoner, the issue of which was life or death. The jury would recollect that on the 14th of January last, between eight and nine o'clock in the evening, the Emperor and Empress of France were riding to the Opera in their carriage, and when standing at the entrance, in the Rue Lepelletier, and at the moment of their arrival at the door of the Opera, three distinct explosions were heard. The missiles from which these explosions proceeded were thrown in the direction of the Emperor's carriage, which was at that moment surrounded by people, and eight persons killed: two who died on the spot, and the remainder within eight and forty hours. One hundred and fifty-six persons were wounded in all—many of them seriously. It would be proved that one of the deadly missiles was found upon the person of one Pierri, and a fifth was found at a short distance from a spot near the track of Felice Orsini. Those instruments of destruction, he (the Attorney-General) should prove to have been purchased in this country at Birmingham, by a person named Allsopp. They then came into the possession of the prisoner at the bar, and were by him conveyed to Brussels, and placed in the possession of Orsini, who was there at that time. Rudio, the Italian, had been hired by the prisoner to engage in this desperate transaction. A design to assassinate the Emperor of the French was formed at a very early period. On the 16th of October in the last year, Allsopp proceeded to Birmingham, and applied to a Mr. Taylor to manufacture six instruments, of which he then and afterwards gave a most minute description. These instruments (grenades, in fact) were completed by the day named, and they were delivered by Mr. Taylor to Allsopp. Now, as to the composition with which these grenades were loaded. Fulminating mercury was composed of three ingredients, namely, alcohol, nitric acid, and mercury. The prisoner at the bar, who was a practical chemist, purchased at the house of a person named Baker alcohol and some pure nitric acid. On a subsequent occasion, he purchased some mercury: all in sufficient quantity, when properly united, to charge these six instruments. At some period before the 31st of December, Bernard was in possession of these instruments. Orsini, as he said before, had long resided in England, and was on terms of the most intimate friendship with Bernard. During the last two weeks of Orsini's residence in this country, he and Bernard were almost constantly together. Bernard frequently went to his house, and in the absence of Orsini opened his letters; and after Orsini departed, Bernard acted in the house as if it belonged to himself. Orsini at this time—that is, towards the end of the month of November—had determined to proceed to Paris, by way of Brussels; but instead of proceeding into Belgium with a genuine passport, he passed himself off on an old passport, granted in 1851 by Lord Palmerston. He quitted England as an Englishman, arriving at Brussels on the morning of the 29th of November. They had then Allsopp in England, Bernard in England, and Orsini in Brussels. On the 23rd of December, Bernard proceeded to the Café Suisse, in the Haymarket, kept by a person named Gorgey. Bernard persuaded Gorgey that the instruments were something connected with a new invention for the manufacture of gas, and as such, Gorgey conveyed them to Brussels, where they were delivered to Orsini. Orsini wished Gorgey, the proprietor of the Café Suisse, to get him a person to take the box containing the grenades over to Paris. This was before Gorgey found that the supposed Englishman was the Italian Orsini, and Gorgey got him a person, a German. On the night of Friday, the 11th of December, this German and Orsini started by the seven o'clock evening train from Brussels to Paris. Orsini travelled as a gentleman, and the German was required to take care of the box containing the six instruments, which was put into a carpet bag. On the morning of the 12th of December, Orsini and the German arrived in Paris with the instruments. Three revolvers, bought at Birmingham, and paid for by Orsini, also found their way to Paris through the hands of the prisoner Bernard, who throughout was the chief active agent in the matter. Bernard, on the 2nd of January, twelve days before the attempt was made, sent two revolvers in a case, with a wrapper of oil skin, to the clerk at the railway booking office of the South-Eastern Railway, and requested that it might be delivered to "M. Outrequin, No. 277, Rue St. Denis, Paris," to whom it was addressed. Bernard was requested by the clerk to sign a declaration as to the nature of the contents, and he declined to sign it, assigning as a reason that he was a proscriber—a proscribed man, and could not have his name seen in France. M. Outrequin was a silk commission agent, and in that way he had had business with Bernard. About the time the revolvers were despatched, Bernard conveyed to Orsini a letter of introduction to Outrequin, in which he speaks of Orsini as an English gentleman of some means, and describes him under the name of "Allsopp." In another letter from Bernard to Outrequin, the prisoner asks—"I do you think it would be easy to dispose in France of some most costly fire-arms of the first manufacture of Birmingham—the commission will be good—some of the revolvers of a first class at 150*fr.*" Then followed another letter, informing M. Outrequin that he would receive a packet, "containing the two specimens of fire-arms of the best manufacture." The price was fixed at 120*fr.*, for which a commission was to be allowed "at the customary rates." He went on to say that he had reason to think they would be "eagerly seized" by the Englishman he had mentioned—the idiom was that he would "swallow them." It continued: "I have written to him (Allsopp) about them, and he is disposed to take

them; in that case you will give them to him directly. I will send you others still better. Don't talk about the price: that will be arranged between you and me. I have written to inform you immediately the money which you will have to advance." This letter prepared M. Outrequin for Allsopp's application for these revolvers, which took place about the 3rd or 4th of January, less than ten days before the attempt. In the meantime, Bernard, who was at Brussels on the night of Orsini's departure for Paris, appears to have been detained in that city, and to have been there on the 23rd and the 26th of December. Orsini had left half of one of the larger grenades behind him at the Café Suisse, in Brussels, and on the 7th of January, Pierri, accompanied by a person of the name of Mackinborough, both of whom had known Bernard well some years before, presented themselves at the Café Suisse with a note from Bernard, and demanded the half grenade, which he obtained, and appeared in Paris on the next day. Gorgey appears to have come to Paris about this time. He went to the same hotel as Pierri, and there continued for some two or three days as his servant. As far as could be collected, the man of resources was Orsini. On the 29th of November, Orsini quitted England for Brussels. On the same day he had presented himself at the Bank of England, producing £135 in gold, and demanding bank notes to that amount, and he received it in twenty £20 notes, three £10, and one £5. The number of these notes were known. On the 2nd of January, the very day when the prisoner Bernard put himself in communication with Rudio, which resulted in the latter's visit to Paris, the prisoner presented himself at a well-known money changer's in the City, and offered one of those very £20 notes (writing his name on the back) which had been received by Orsini on the 26th of November at the Bank of England. The prisoner presented another at the same place on the 7th of January; and a third was found on the person of Pierri at the time of his arrest. With regard to Rudio, twelve days before the assassination, the prisoner proceeded to the lodgings of Carlo Rudio, a poor Italian, living in penury, and persuaded him to go to Paris, on the understanding that his wife should receive twelve shillings a week during his absence. In Paris Carlo Rudio became the constant associate of Pierri.

The conspirators were now assembled in Paris, and the 11th of January arrived. On that day, between eleven and twelve o'clock, Orsini took himself to the Rue Montabor, where he had lodgings, and where he met Rudio, and they remained together until past one o'clock, when they left. It appeared that just before or after they had separated, between half-past eleven and one o'clock, the whole of them were assembled. At five o'clock in the afternoon, three, if not the four, were again together; and about half-past six o'clock, the whole of them assembled at Orsini's lodgings, and left with some articles of heavy weight in a handkerchief, and then nothing was heard of them until the explosion took place. There were a great many persons assembled at the Opera, for it was known the Emperor and Empress were to visit the theatre that night, and from something suspicious which excited the attention of the police, an officer watched at the private entrance of the theatre, where he arrested Pierri, and he was taken to the nearest police station. When he was taken into custody, one of the grenades, loaded with fulminating mercury, was found in his hand, and a five-barrel revolver, loaded, was taken from him. A quarter of an hour afterwards, three shells were thrown near the Emperor's carriage. The persons in the immediate vicinity of the theatre were dreadfully wounded, fled in consternation, and Felice Orsini, who was in front, was himself severely hurt. He then turned out of the Rue Lepelletier, went into another street, and entering a chemist's shop, said he was severely wounded. He was traced by his blood, and in the track of it was found the fourth of those dreadful engines. There was also found in his track a revolver, the counter-part of that found on Pierri. Rudio was taken at a later period of the night, in his bed. He still said he was an Englishman, and was found in possession of a false passport. Gorgey, who appeared to have acted as the servant of Orsini, rushed into a café, calling out for his master, and was also apprehended. Rudio went to his lodgings, and on the officers tracing him there, found on him a Portuguese passport in the name of De Silva. In his room they found a revolver and a dagger, and also 260 francs in gold.

This was the history of this unhappy transaction. These were the facts which proved that the prisoner was a party to the deed, and that he had in his possession the instruments that committed these murders; that he conveyed them to Brussels, and gave them to Orsini; that he purchased the chemicals which constituted the ingredients of the fulminating powder; that if he were not the purchaser he became the possessor of two of the revolvers, by which it was intended, in case the instruments failed, to take the life of the Emperor. If all these circumstances were proved to the satisfaction of the jury, they must deem it their duty to their God and their country to pronounce the prisoner guilty. He (the Attorney-General) could not sit down, however, without reverting to the fact that great and important questions of law were involved in this trial. The question was, whether the prisoner at the bar was the subject of the Crown within the meaning of the law; and whether the murder that had been committed was a murder; an accessory to which was punishable under existing Acts. He need say no more, but if the question was raised he would reply to it, and their Lordships would have to decide.

The statement of the Attorney-General being now concluded, witnesses were called in support of the prosecution. The case had not concluded when we went to press.

Literature.

Recollections of the Last Days of Shelley and Byron. By E. J. TRELAWNEY. London: Edward Moxon.

THIS book reads like the recollections of a striking romance broken up into detached masses, the heroines having faded from the mind, whilst all that is memorable in the conduct of the heroes, still stands forth in vivid representation. At the time of Mr. Trelawney's introduction to Byron, the poet was residing on the Lung Arno at Pisa, and although in his thirty-fifth year, he still realised the ideal standard with which imagination invests genius. He stood five feet eight and a half inches high, with regular features and unspotted brow, pallid and smooth as the polished marble, an open chest, broad shoulders, an erect form, and with limbs and body finely proportioned. "His small highly finished head and curly hair," says Trelawney, "had an airy and graceful appearance from the massiveness and length of the throat; you saw his genius in his eyes and lips." Let us endeavour to fill up this picture, so well begun, before we introduce Shelley.

At this period Byron was evidently in high spirits—seems to have indulged in the expectation of a longer life than was allotted to him. The kind of composition upon which he was then employing himself, was not pleasing to the ladies; and Murray, with a view to the interests of the shop, had advised him to resume the "Corsair" style. "All I have yet written," said the poet, "has been for womankind; you must wait until I am forty, and then I will show the men what I can do." The life he was then leading, however, was of such a lazy and almost useless kind, that no reasonable hope could have been entertained of his ever producing any thing better than he had already produced. He seldom rose till after mid-day, when he dawdled about till two or three o'clock; then rode slowly to a small Podere, where he fired a few pistol shots, sauntered about awhile, then returned at the same slow pace, partook of a frugal dinner, passed the evening with an Italian family, and then "the midnight lamp and the immortal verses." Such was the usual tenour of his life; no deep drinking, no irregular debaucheries, but a good deal of indolence and *ennui*, which it was always difficult for him to shake off. We believe that his irregularities were always greatly exaggerated, as is too often the case with the frailties or peculiarities of those who live in the eye of the public; but whatever these might have been in his more youthful days, he had abandoned them in Italy. None of his drinking propensities had in the slightest degree affected his spirits or constitution. It was the starvation system he adopted that damaged him. He had such a horror of growing fat, that for days together he would live on biscuits and soda-water.

"I remember," says Trelawney, "one of his old friends saying, 'Byron, how well you are looking!' If he had stopped there, it had been well, but when he added, 'You are getting fat,' Byron's brow reddened and his eyes flushed: 'Do you call getting fat looking well, as if I were a hog?' and turning to me he muttered, 'The beast, I can hardly keep my hands off him!'"

The man who had thus inadvertently offended was the husband of the lady addressed as "Genevra," and the original of his Zuleika in the "Bride of Abydos." Getting fat, however, is not generally one of the horrors that haunt the imaginations of Englishmen; but Byron said he had tried all sorts of experiments to stay his hunger without adding to his bulk. "I swelled," said he, "at one time to fourteen stone; so

I clapped the muzzle on my jaws, and, like the hybridating dog, consumed my own fat."

It was one of the tendencies of Byron's mind to view everything as did through a morbidly-exaggerated medium. Whilst travelling with the Pilgrim "Childe," all his adventures, dangers, and privations were imaginary rather than real; and the extent of country over which he had passed, with all the variety which it admits of for poetical description, was extremely limited. "When we have seen one green field," says Dr. Johnson, "we have seen every green field;" and we may say that when we have seen one sea and sky under the different aspects of tempest and sunshine, we have seen what will only be repeated in other, with some slight variation. Yet how much did Byron mind of his travels! And how much did he make of almost everything he met with himself! He never was in France, and spoke and read the French language very indifferently.

"The poet," says Trelawney, "had an antipathy to every thing that titles, maps and charts offended him; he would not look through a telescope, and only knew the cardinal points of the compass; building, the most ancient or modern he was as indifferent to as he was to painting, sculpture, and music. But all natural objects and changes in the elements he was generally the first to point out and the last to lose sight of."

The closing sentence here indicates the true poet; yet it is scarcely credible that a soul such as his was imbued with the loftiest aspirations, as seen on his written page—could descend to the most vulgar of human utterances, as have been reported to have habitually fallen from his lips. When we compare the beauty and grandeur of his genius and the magnificence of his diction with his conversation, what a contrast do they present!

"His conversation," says Trelawney, "was anything but literary, except when Shelley was near him. The character he most commonly appeared in was of the free-and-easy sort, such as had been in vogue when he was in London and George IV. was Regent; and his talk was seasoned with anecdotes of the great actors on and off the stage, of gamblers, duellists, drunkards, &c., &c., appropriately garnished with the slang and scandal of that day."

From these *excerpts* it will be seen that the picture of Byron, as a whole and as drawn by Trelawney, leaves a painful impression behind it; but to have expected any other than opposite qualities in such an anomaly as was this Poet, was to expect Nature to have violated her own intentions in producing him. He was born to be extraordinary. He was meant to be eminently great, yet eminently little; to be distinguished by the grandeur and sublimity of his conceptions, as well as by the intensity of his passions; to be remarkably beautiful in face and in figure, though deformed in the feet and lame. The contrasts in his nature were intentional as they are in the peacock—in the magnificence of its plumage and the horror of its cry. Let us therefore accept the glories of his genius as having been sent for our enjoyment, and draw a lesson from his other conditions as having been imposed upon him for his own humiliation.

Turn we now from Byron the poet to Shelley the man. Lost any of our critical readers should be startled at this italicised distinction, we will at once set them right as to what we mean by it. What we mean is, that Byron as a poet was greatly superior to Shelley, but as a *man* he was greatly Shelley's inferior.

The wife of Shelley was Mary, the daughter of Mary Wollstonecraft, the authoress, and of William Godwin, the philosopher; and in marrying her he entered into an alliance with literature and love. The spirituality of his simple, genuine, and trusting nature found the sympathy and the repose which such a being required, when banished from his home, robbed of his children, and exiled from his country. "Shelley, too," said Byron, in allusion to what he deemed his own wrongs, "they hooted him out of his country like a mad dog, for questioning a dogma." Mrs. Shelley, too, has observed that "many have suggested and advocated far greater innovations in our political and social systems than him; but he alone practised those he approved as just." He was a being, indeed, literally enshrined in goodness. We speak of him apart from his opinions upon disputed dogmas. He was of quite a different kind of material from that of which Byron was manufactured. He was of all men the least selfish, the most pure, and the most diligent in seeking after truth. If his convictions were wrong to us, they were right to him; but he swam alone against the tide, which, being too strong for him, carried him away with its current from the land of his birth. Trelawney's description of his appearance when he first saw him in Italy is thus given:—

"Come in, Shelley," said Mrs. Williams, whose family was occupying one of the flats of the same house with the Shelleys on the Lung Arno. "Come in, Shelley; it is only our friend Trelawney just arrived."

"Swiftly gliding in, blushing like a girl, a tall, thin striped hosiery both his hands; and although I could hardly believe as I looked at his flushed, feminine, and artless face, that it could be the poet, I returned his warm pressure. After the ordinary greeting and courtesies, he sat down and listened. I was silent from astonishment. Was it possible this mild-looking, hairless boy, could be the veritable monster at war with all the world! excommunicated by the fathers of the Church, deprived of his civil rights by the fiat of a grim Lord Chancellor, discarded by every member of his family, and denounced by the rival sages of our literature, as the founder of a Satanic School? I could not believe it; it must be a hoax. He was habited like a boy, in a black jacket and trousers, which he seemed to have outgrown, or his tailor, as is the custom, had most shamefully stinted him in his 'sizings.'"

It was to this "mild looking, hairless boy," that we are indebted for the idea of the tragedy of "Manfred," and many of those metaphysical views which are interwoven with the fourth canto of "Childe Harold." "In his conversational criticism justice was always his aim; therefore whatever judgment he pronounced, it may be taken as a sincerity, whether right or wrong. 'Write nothing,' says he to Byron, 'but what your conviction of truth inspires you to write; you should give counsel to the wise, and not take it from the foolish. Time will reverse the judgment of the vulgar. Contemporary criticism only represents the amount of ignorance genius has to contend with.'"

If this last sentence be true, how much have modern critics yet to learn or forget! In our opinion, there is but one standard of criticism for works of the imagination, and that is to be found in the impression which they make on the minds of those who read them. The impressions which some of this kind of works will make on some minds will be stronger than they will make on others. Hence the diversity of opinion; but no critic or coterie of critics could have succeeded in making the public believe that Byron was not a poet, or that Scott was not a novelist. Malice might have railed against them for ever, and the hatchet of Zeves might have been thrown at every page of their productions, but they would have failed in effecting any permanent injury upon them. The verses of the one and the romances of the other were too strongly stamped with the characteristics of genius, not to have finally been received as the emanations of mental superiority, in spite of every species of hostility with which they might have been assailed on their first appearances. Great, however, as was Byron's faculty of poetical composition, he could not write when he pleased. Trelawney has shown this on a signal occasion, and we believe that there is nothing more uncongenial to the feelings of the real poet than to sit down and try to write upon a subject dictated to him by another.

"You think it is as easy to write poetry as it is to smoke a cigar," said Byron after making the attempt to which we have just alluded. "Extemporising verses is nonsense. Poetry is a distinct faculty: it will not come when called; you may as well whistle for a wind. A Pythonee was primed when put on the tripod. I must chew the cud before I write. I have thought over most of my subjects for years before writing a line."

To return to Shelley. When he wrote, he also elaborated much, and had likewise well pondered his thoughts before he allowed them to see the light.

"My friends," he observes, "say my 'Prometheus' is too mild, ideal, and perplexed with imagery. It may be so. It has no resemblance to the Greek drama. It is original, and cost me severe mental labour. Authors, like mothers, prefer the children who have given them most trouble. Milton

"Paradise Regained," Petrarch his "Africa," and Byron his

to Keats, he gives this figure of himself
"Midst others of less note—some frail form,
A youth in earnest mood,
Whose thunder is its knell; he,
Hail-gazed on Nature's naked loins,
Hail-like, and now he fled,
With feeble steps o'er the world,
And his own thoughts alone."
Pursued, like raging hounds, by father and their prey."

With this many incidental sketches Byron has given us
of himself throughout his numerous effusions. It is sad
enough; but it lacks the depth and intensity of the self-
revelation of the other. It is the picture of a feeble and a sorrowful
victim of such thoughts as he could not help dropping
himself. These are not of the world's shaping either; they
grow within him to irresistibility.

Shelley had seen no more of the working-day world," says Tre-
velyan, "than a girl at a boarding-school; and his habit of eternally
being on his own thoughts, in solitude and silence, damaged his
mind and body."

Shelley had seen no more of the working-day world he might have been
singing, but would have been less sincere, and, in all likelihood,
never have been compelled to quit his country. The notes to
"The Revolt," which raised the voice of orthodox England against
what never have seen the light, or if so, in a modified form. But
it may, he bore himself nobly in his exile, are the Gulf of
Trelawny to his bosom.

We regret that want of space will not allow us to follow Mr. Trelaw-
ny's own adventures after the death of the poets. We cannot,
however, close his book without a strong recommendation of its con-
tent without an expression of thanks for the enjoyment they have
afforded.

Plat-Hunters. By Captain MAYNE REID. London: Brown,
in labours of the plant-hunter, the whole civilised world is
led. By his agency in England, "cold cloudy England" becomes,
Captain truly observes, "a garden of flowers more varied in
colour and bloom than those that blossomed in the famed
of Cashmere." To him we are also indebted for many of our
most beautiful trees, and for the great majority of our most beautiful
plants. Captain Mayne Reid, without wishing to undervalue the
of the pure botanist, affirms that the humblest plant-hunter
does more service to the human race than even the great Linnaeus
himself, because, instead of contenting himself with pointing out the
names of plants already known, he at the same time continually
discovers fresh ones.

Of course plant-hunters sometimes discover more than they happen
to be looking for. They are necessarily of an adventurous disposition,
and we suspect the esteem in which they are held by the gallant
man. Thus they are prepared to meet with wild beasts while only
looking for flowers; and if, in order to obtain some rare plant, it be
necessary to climb a mountain or cross a ravine, then the mountain has
climbed and the ravine crossed, and Captain Mayne Reid will tell
us his own interesting style how all this is accomplished.

Karl Linden and Caspar, his brother, are two Bavarians, who, having
been the insurrectionary party of 1818, are compelled to take refuge
in England. They are the sons of an educated gardener, and possess-
ing an adventurous spirit and a competent knowledge of botany,
they go to start on a plant-hunting expedition to the Himalaya
mountains. Karl is a student, but Caspar is above all a hunter.
Caspar, who accompanies the brothers, is a Hindoo guide, and Fritz,
who completes the party, is a dog. As for the hotel-juice, which was
broken for blood; and the fishing-birds; and the palmyra-trees,
which when tapped yield champagne; and the sambar-stag, which
is killed and cut into four pieces; and the tiger that ran away with
four quarters, and was afterwards taken with bird-lime; and
the tallest grass in the world; and the man-eaters; and Karl's meet-
ing with the long-lipped bear;—for these strange zoological characters,
and interesting adventures, and exciting scenes, we must refer the reader to
the work itself, which many a boy will devour with his mouth open—
as if that feat may at first thought appear.

SOCIETY OF FEMALE ARTISTS. EGYPTIAN HALL, PICCADILLY.

REALLY we are placed, as critics, in a very embarrassing position.
We do with these ladies? we who reverence, adore the
art, who are somewhat—not to say comically—frightened at
the very sight of an "elastic skirt"—for petticoats, as everybody
knows, exist no more. If we bestow lavish praise on the ladies, we
shall be accused of a fawning and spaniel-like desire to curry favour
with the gentler sex. "Do you call that a man?" will some Empress
bopper of the paint brush contemptuously cry, alluding to your shave,
dear critic. Should we, on the contrary, determine, regardless of sex,
to do our duty with conscientious severity, tuck up our sleeves, clench
our teeth, knit our brows, and, a catalogue in one hand and a knout in
the other, with vengeful strides and horrid mien, ascend the staircase
of the Egyptian Hall, what will be our fate when this article is
printed? "Monster," "wretch," "bad man," "odious creature,"
"provoking thing," will be the epithets liberally bestowed on us.
Fairies will gleam, fair brows will bend, delicate digits will tingle
with a feminine desire to tear our wicked eyes out. We shall be
condemned before tribunals presided over by the Queen of Navarre,
the Princess of Prussia, or the Seven Sisters of York. We shall be
found guilty by a jury of matrons. We shall be treated as cruelly as
was Acton by Diana—delivered over to the Furies, those Mother
Brownings of antiquity—sentenced to dwell in perpetual bachelorhood
in a Chelsea boarding-house, condemned to continuous buttonless-
don, transformed into apes, to be led by old maids, never mind where
in a word, we shall have the worst of it, which man generally has in
contest with lovely woman.

Tartuffe, resolved to abandon mortification for a time, instructed
Laurent to lock up his penitential scourge. On the day of our visit to
the second exhibition of the Society of Female Artists, we instructed
Mrs. Fillicrap, our landlady, to lend our critical knout for the day to the
editor of the "Saturday Review," who wanted the instrument of
chastisement in question—his own not being sharp enough—for the
benefit of a friend of his who had written a book lately; we sent our
provision of gall and wormwood, with our compliments, per centi-
mial parcel service, to M. Louis Veuillot of the "Univers;" and with a
smile on our newly-washed countenance—(we used Naples soap that
day)—a new pair of gloves, a beaming countenance, a violet at our
button hole, our bluchers freshly polished, and provided with no more
formidable weapon of offence than a little partridge cane with an ivory
knob, we walked down to the Egyptian Hall, taking the Burlington
ArCADE as the most genial approach thereto, and humming as we went,
the melody of "Amants heureux soyez fiddlees."

The severest thing we have to say of the five hundred and twenty-five
paintings and drawings exhibited by these lady artists is, that, taken in
their entirety, they disclose a strong—perhaps an unavoidable—imitative
tendency. Many of the water-colour drawings are declaredly copies
from ancient or modern masters, and among the so-called original works
we seem to wander in a maze of ever-recurring reminiscence. Here is
Lancelotti that reminds us of Maclise—here one of Cobbett—here one of
Stanfield—here one of Lancelotti—here one of Linnell. But the copyism
is not servile, not mean, but always graceful, sometimes noble. It is
more a clinging for support to more vigorous originals—it is the ivy
embracing the oak. Of want of vigour, and dash, and effect, it would
be ungenerous to accuse these fair followers of Antoinette, Sacdaniel, and
Angelica Kaufmann. Goodness knows we don't want vigour in the
ladies. For our part, we could cheerfully dispense with the dashing

amazons who ride to hounds, and the vigorous dames who pride them-
selves at being able to lunge, trap, and lance, and hit, and carry with the
Minie Rifle.

No. 7. "Leaving the old house," Mrs. W. Smith, is a nice bit of
out-door scenery. There is a chubby little child in a wheelbarrow, and
some other children assisting to wheel him. The effect is bright and
sunny, but the treatment somewhat hard. (10) "Fruit," Miss Mar-
getson, is a subject for the manipulation of which unqualified com-
mendation may be achieved by lady artists. Grapes and pine-apples are
here in luscious profusion; and the play of light and shade is deli-
cately managed. (22) "A farm road," Mary Linnell, is so exact a
transcript of the style and treatment of the Linnells, that without very
close inspection it might easily be taken as a performance by John
Linnell of Redhill. (28) "Gleaners," Kate Swift, is a simple scene
enough, as simply treated, yet not without a certain poetic grace and
feeling. A girl is leaning over a gate, and another—a younger one—is
playing with a goat, and there are some Welsh-looking hills in the
distance; no very moving incidents by flood or field these, yet their
contemplation is sufficient at once to inspire us with a longing to quit
the Egyptian Hall ineffectually, and take the first train for the West
and Bangor. (31) "The Gipsies' Haunt," is by a sister of the Mrs.
Linnell named above. Miss Sarah possesses the same imitative qualifi-
cations, though not carried to so great an extent as her sister.
(37) "Wild Flowers," Miss Juliette Jacobson, and (38) "Rhodan-
dions" (the horrible word to spell!), are careful and elaborate render-
ings of natural objects. The last-named are somewhat hard and
"tinny" in tone.

(47) "The Bath," Mrs. E. M. Ward, is a somewhat remarkable picture.
The subject is of the very simplest, not to say humblest. We are in a
nursery, and a child is about to be put into a bath, the maternally-looking
bather bending over it. In the bed sleeps another little innocent, who
has probably just undergone a similar operation. The domestic hummings, spoon-
sops, bowls, water-pots, and other articles, are carefully pointed out.
There may exist some of the first sight in determining whether so plainly dressed a
female bending over the child is nurse or mother. We incline sternly
to the latter theory, not because we know anything about mothers, but
because we know a good deal about nurses, and are certain that no nurse
ever had that patient, almost devotional, all-absorbed-in-her-occupation
look, which pervades the countenance of the lady here. In many other
artists' hands this homely topic, "The Bath," might have become either
frivolous or narrowly pious. Mrs. Ward has contrived to infuse into it a
matronly dignity and serious beauty that must extort admiration from
the most unwilling; and there are those who hate praising anything or
anybody.

Mrs. J. W. Brown exhibits a pretty view (54) of "An Old Water Mill
near Dolgelly, North Wales;" and Miss Stoddart has (59) a very nice
bit of aerial perspective in the "Banks of the Tummel at Faskally,
Perthshire." (56) "Strolling Musicians," by Miss Fox, is hung in a
very bad position, but merits attention. It is broadly and firmly
pointed—a novelty with a lady artist. The female figure with the
organ is capably conceived, and the little girl holding the tambourine
is full of easy grace; but we are at a loss to know what these "Strolling
Musicians" are doing on the sea-shore. Do they expect to get half-
pence out of the "sad sea waves," or out of the possible crews of
fishing smacks coming that way? Miss Fox also exhibits a portrait (57)
of her distinguished father, Mr. W. J. Fox, M.P. The lion-like head
and abundant chevelure are massively, yet tenderly, rendered. (61) "A
Ballad Singer, Connemara, Ireland," Mrs. Robinson, is a careful study
in the exact manner of Mr. Maclise; but like many other imitators, she
has caught her master's faults as well as his manner. The face, as is
usual with Mr. Maclise, is overcharged with colour, while the arms are of
an unnatural and porcelain whiteness. (101) "Work and Play" is a really
partial version of that most prosaic event, a washing day. The damsel
is washing for dear life, while a little boy, unconscious as yet of house-
hold cares, is busily employed in the delightful pursuit of blowing
bubbles from the soap-suds. If we might be allowed to tender a
respectful counsel to Miss Georgiana Swift, the artist of "Work and
Play," it would be, next time she represents a "young person" wash-
ing, to make her hold the linen somewhat more tenaciously. In the
picture, the week's washing is slipping away visibly from the girl's
fingers. (116) "The Love-letter," Miss M. A. Cole, represents two
pretty girls under a tree, reading one of those eternal epistles which
Mr. Thackeray recommends should be written in ink that should fade
from the paper in the course of five years' time. Mrs. Valentine Bar-
tholomew has (207 and 339) some really exquisite studies of fruit. Mrs.
Elizabeth Murray, whose vigorous water-colour delineations of Portu-
guese and Teneriffe life created a considerable sensation when exhibited
last year at the Portland Gallery, contributes several excellent works
—among which we prefer, (341) "The Dawn of Day, a Boy praying to
the Virgin." (379) is a series of small studies in sepia and in one
frame, by Miss E. A. Claxton, entitled "Scenes from the Life of a
Female Artist." The first sketch, "Drawing from the Life," is a
pretty conceit: a little toddling creature lying its length on the floor
before a glass, and endeavouring to nibble its own reflected image. The
last of the series is melancholy, and somewhat cynical: the female
stands before a picture whose back only is seen, but which, from its
size, we conjecture to have been an ambitious one, which has been sent
to the Royal Academy for exhibition. It is marked with the fatal
"R" (rejected) of the censorious forty. We hope the careers of all
female artists are not so gloomy as Miss Claxton would have us think.
Only once dub us R.A. and we will soon cause her to alter her opinion.
In conclusion, we must mention the lady secretary, Mrs. B. J. Russ,
who, in (423) "Ecce Homo," has produced a fine copy in sepia of Cor-
regio's death-work.

CHROMO LITHOGRAPHY.

Ulysses Deriding Polyphemus. London: Rowney and Co.
We have received a chromo-lithographic copy of Turner's "Ulysses
deriding Polyphemus." In this work of art it is not Polyphemus so much
as Mr. Turner himself who is derided. It is very true that the great
colorist can never be imitated with very great success, but surely his
forms can be represented with some degree of accuracy. At the same
time his colour ought to be given with a certain sort of attention to the
difference between amber and yellow, pink and red, blue and purple, &c.
This the chromo-lithographer whose production is now before us has
not thought fit to take into consideration. He has given us neither the
design nor the tints—nor anything like them; we have neither a shade,
nor a colour, nor a figure correctly imitated from the original. The
chromo-lithograph before us is utterly unlike anything that ever was
seen before. We do not know precisely what sort of appearance a
lobster-salad mixed up with a dish of trifle might present; but we can
think of nothing else that can possibly resemble the hideous caricature
that is presented to us as a coloured lithograph of one of Turner's
most admirable paintings.

FORTUNE AND MISFORTUNE.—A young workman, of Trieste, who main-
tained himself and his mother by his daily labour, gained so little that they
lived most wretchedly. By hard saving he had saved enough money, how-
ever, to purchase a lottery ticket. The drawing took place a few days
after, and his ticket gained a prize of 16,990 florins! With joy the young
man hurried to his mother, informed her of his good fortune, and asked for
the ticket. "Alas! my son," said she, "I sold it some time back!"
Without a word, the young man drew his knife, and stabbed her until she
fell dead at his feet. He was arrested the same day.

THE NEW REIGN OF TERROR.—M. Mazzini writes:—"The work of persi-
cution in France is going on silently, but unceasingly. Doomed prisoners
are continuing to reach Marseilles every night from all the depart-
ments. They are conveyed, like the réfractaires, in cellular vans. The arrests
were all predetermined. They took place simultaneously in all localities a
few days before the promulgation of the Law of Public Safety, from old and
recent lists of names, merely marked with the word 'republican.' They
are very numerous. The Governor of Algeria writes, urging for other
places of confinement being chosen. Algiers alone has already 700
prisoners."

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE intermittent season at Her Majesty's Theatre having now fairly
ceased, Mr. Lumley has entered upon his regular summer campaign.
On Tuesday, the opening night, "The Huguenots" was produced.
This in itself was quite a novelty at Her Majesty's Theatre, but the
evening was rendered still more interesting by the appearance of two
artists, Madame Titiens from Vienna, and Mademoiselle Landi
from—we scarcely care to inquire where.

Of Mademoiselle Landi we will only say for the present that she ap-
pears to have no voice—a defect which, in the case of a so-called
singer, can scarcely be compensated for. But it must also be remem-
bered that a singer who takes the part of the page in "The Huguenots,"
and fails through nervousness or from any other cause, in the first act,
has no chance of retrieving her position afterwards—that is to say, not
on the same evening. One thing is quite certain: Mademoiselle Landi
must have more merit than she exhibited on Tuesday evening, or Mr.
Lumley would never have engaged her.

Madame Titiens met with just that amount of success which might
have been anticipated from the complete absence of any pulling preli-
minary notice in connection with her appearance. She was thoroughly
and grandly successful as a tragic, and especially as a patho-
netic actress, and equally successful in the character of a vocalist. It
is such a common thing (however untrue) to say of a new singer, that
she unites this advantage with that advantage, that we are not quite
sure we shall be understood seriously when we state that Madame
Titiens possesses a voice which is highly powerful, and at the same
time full of the most delicate expression, that her tones are as fresh as
those of a girl who has just left her academy, and that her
method is perfect. Her success was certain from the moment she
appeared, but it was not until the end of the third act in the admirable
scene with the tenor that she had an opportunity of exhibiting her
vocal and histrionic genius combined, and that she achieved her great
triumph.

The part of Marguerite de Valois was taken by Madame Ortolani,
who, it will be remembered, sang last season with much success,
especially in the rôle of Elvira in the "Puritani." Marguerite's
music is brilliant and cold, and no singer can make much of it—partly,
no doubt, because it is impossible not to contrast it with that of
Valentine in the same opera. It must also be admitted that Madame
Ortolani's clear, but at the same time thin and occasionally sharp voice,
contrasts very decidedly with the beautiful organ possessed by Madame
Titiens.

Giuglini sang the music of "Raoul" better than could have been
expected. No one who has been in the habit of hearing this singer
could have doubted for a moment but he would sing it well, but as
Giuglini is in the habit of singing Italian music only, it was by no
means certain that he could be equally successful in that of Meyerbeer.
People have been taught to believe that Verdi's music tries the voice,
and that Meyerbeer's music (with Meyerbeer's orchestra!) does
nothing of the kind. But the truth is, Meyerbeer has written three
tenor parts (in "Robert," the "Huguenots," and the "Prophet"),
either of which would suffice to dispose finally of a voice that had
escaped without the loss of a note from such operas as the "Travatore"
and "Rigoletto." However that may be, Giuglini has sung the music
of "Raoul," and has acted the part, and has even looked the part,
which, with the vision of Mario before the audience, was perhaps the
most difficult of all three. In the dramatic scene at the end of the
third act (to which we have already alluded), Giuglini's acting and
singing were worthy of Madame Titiens's, and hers were superb.

It can be imagined how well Beletti sustained the part of St. Bris.

Violetti, as Marel, the Huguenot soldier, was of course very great
in a physical sense, and his singing was really worthy of his size. In
his celebrated battle song, he "piff-puffed" in the most energetic
manner, but the orchestra behaved meanly towards him, and played
much louder than it was possible for him to sing.

The reader will be pleased to imagine the paragraph *de rigueur*,
about the costumes and *mise en scène*—which we propose herewith
to suppress. However, for this time only we must state that the
scenery and all the accessories were—in a non-conventional sense—
magnificent.

The Royal Italian Opera is to open on the 15th—in the new theatre,
it is believed. In addition to Bosio and Grisi, Mademoiselle Parepa
and Miss Balfe are engaged among the *prime donne*. Mademoiselle Parepa
sang only once last season, but she produced a very favourable im-
pression (as we recorded at the time), and during the operatic recess
she has been singing with great success at Lisbon. Mr. Gye has for
baritones, Ronconi and Graziani, Fornes for bass; and for tenors,
Mario, Tamberlik, Gardoni, and Neri-Baraldi. The most remarkable
announcement in the programme is one to the effect that Mario will ap-
pear as "Don Giovanni," with Tamberlik as "Don Ottavio." The
great tenor then is to appear as a high baritone, or, at least, as a *tenore
grave*. There will be certainly no advantage in the new "Don
Giovanni" cast—namely this: that the hero will be played by the only
singer who can look and act the part to perfection.

At the Adelphi Theatre, a very strange version of the "Caliph of
Bagdad" has been produced. The music is advertised as the com-
position of the "celebrated" Boieldieu, but it is unfair to the memory
of the "celebrated" Boieldieu, to mention his name at all in connection
with the performance at the Adelphi. We must state, however, that
Miss Roden, who made her *début* in this collection of fragments, has a
beautiful voice, and sings with much expression.

The Mendelssohn concert at the St. James's Hall was well attended,
and there was nothing to say against the performance, except that it
was rather long. Miss Arabella Goddard was the piano soloist on this
evening, and the principal vocalists were Madame Castellan (whom many
will welcome back to London) and Miss Huddart.

THE ORPHANS. BY HAMON.

SEVERAL of the charming pictures of M. Hamon have been exhibited
from time to time in the French Gallery in Pall Mall, and must be
familiar to many of our readers. In correctness of design, in delicacy
of outline, and in tenderness of colour, M. Hamon is not surpassed by
any artist of the present day; and there is a deeper and more essential
grace in most of his compositions, which proceeds solely from the
beauty of the conception. M. Hamon first made his reputation in
Paris as a painter of classical subjects, his style being not the grand
classical, but the "classical domestic." In other words, he eschewed
the conventional theatrical subjects of David and his vigorous but
detestable school, and devoted himself to the representation of the
interior life of the ancients. Instead of painting statues without colour,
and for the most part without drapery, he depicted human beings full
of human feeling, and draped in the most graceful robes. In the
"Orphans," of which we publish an engraving in the present number,
and which of course is a modern subject, there is nevertheless a remi-
niscence of the antique in the loose drapery of the young girl who is
threading the needle. Her sister has fallen asleep exhausted with
fatigue; but the little brother is so unconscious of the efforts his
orphan protectress has been making for his sake, more even than for her
own, that he is absolutely tickling her face with a blade of grass, with
the view of waking her. We will only add that the details of
M. Hamon's beautiful picture are quite worthy of the principal
figures.

THE APPROACHING STORM. BY VOLTZ.

HERR VOLTZ is a German artist, a Prussian, we believe, and his picture
represents a scene in East Prussia, where the vast plains are covered
with innumerable oxen and horses. The clouds are lowering, and the
keeper of the herds recognises, not less surely than the animals them-
selves, the signs of the approaching storm.



THE ORPHANS.—(FROM A PICTURE BY HAMON.)



THE APPROACHING STORM.—(FROM A PICTURE BY PROFESSOR FREDERICK VOLTZ.)

SERFDOM IN RUSSIA.

Our artist presents us this week with a group of *moujiks*, *moojiks*, *moushiks*, or *mouzhiks*. Each of these modes of spelling the word has been adopted by writers on Russia; and by giving all four together we shall enable the more ingenious of our readers to arrive at the exact pronunciation of the word, which is simply that of "*moujik*," as pronounced in French, with the soft j. Having settled this important point, let us proceed to state who and what the *moujik* is.

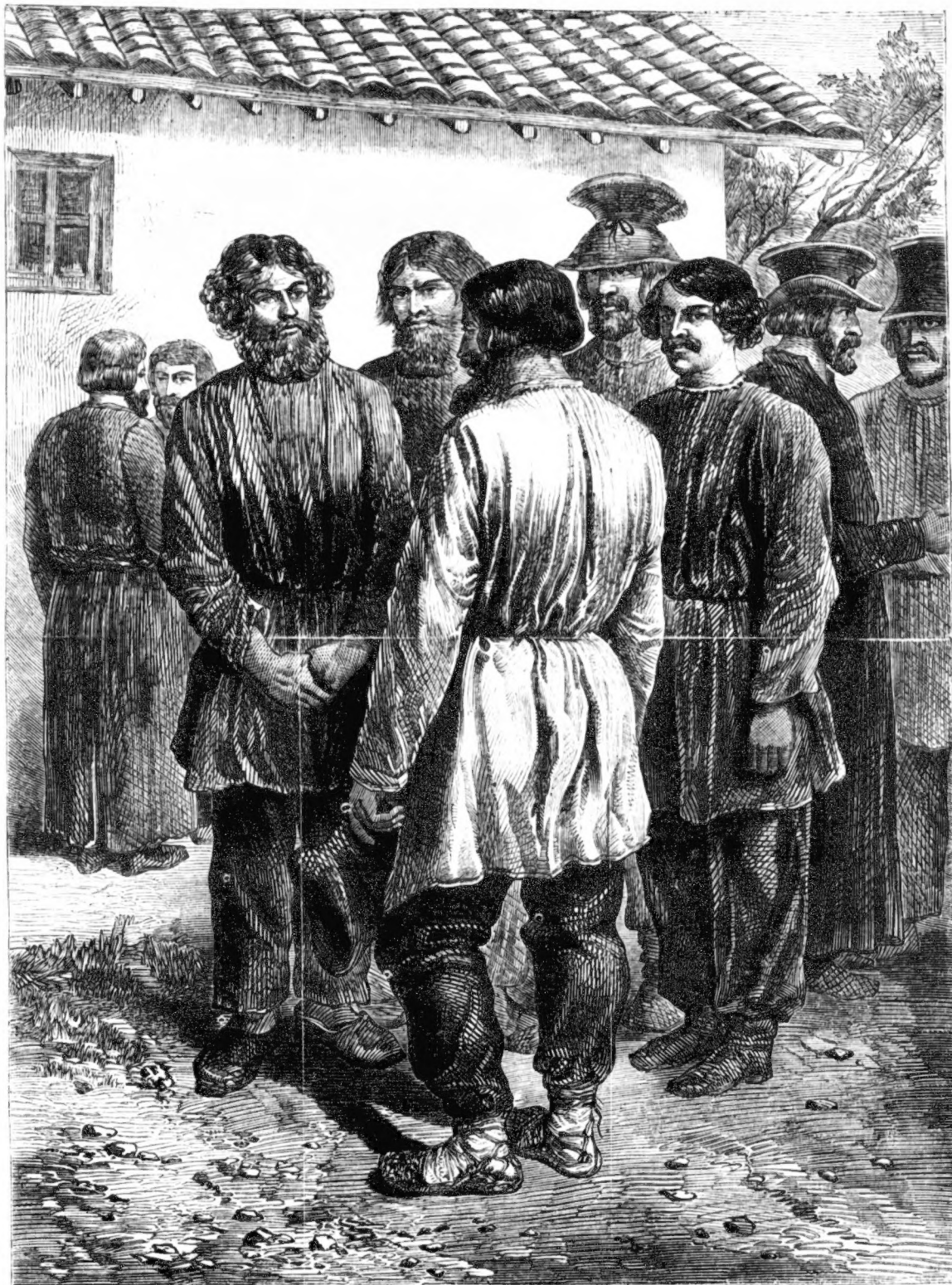
Moujik, then, strictly speaking, means peasant; but the name is also applied to artisans, and generally to all members of the lower classes in Russia. It is usual in the West of Europe to confound the *moujik* with the serf, but this is an error, inasmuch as half the *moujiks* are free. It is also customary to pity him for being a slave, which is very proper, and to blame him for his love of candles, which is quite unnecessary. The *moujik* never tastes so much as a farthing rushlight in the whole course of his life. He is not rich enough to eat candles, even if such were his inclination. He is not even rich enough to burn them, except on holiday occasions. When he wishes for a light he goes to his stove, and pulls out along *louchina*—or *lootchena*, to write the word phonetically—and sets it to burn in an iron fixture formed in imitation of a candlestick.

These *louchinas* are much inferior to the best wax-candles, in all respects but one: if you do not wish to obtain light from them you can use them as walking-sticks, a purpose for which candles of all descriptions are utterly unsuited.

But the great merit of the *louchina* is its extreme simplicity. Every one who has heard of Russia's universal material and Russia's universal tool, can guess of what and with what it is made. As the Russian peasants make their houses, their bridges, their carts, their baskets, their boxes, and their bowls, out of one substance and with only one implement, so they make their *louchinas*—out of wood and with a hatchet.

Of course every peasant is his own *louchina*-maker; and the process is not very difficult if you once know how to set about it and are thoroughly used to it—in default of which you will not only not make *louchinas*, but in all probability will chop your fingers off. First of all, a log of birch wood has to be cut lengthwise into tolerably thick splinters—say the thickness of London fire-wood. Then these splinters, which are from two to four feet in length, are put into the stove or oven to dry, and when they are thoroughly parched they are fit for use.

It appears a very sad thing that some thirty or forty millions of people should have no domestic light but that of the *louchina*, especially in a country where tallow is so plentiful. But the fact is, the *louchina* is one of the great institutions of Russia, and many of the peasants would no more abandon it than they would shave their chins. The light it gives is not exceedingly brilliant, but it has inspired the most popular of all the Russian songs, the celebrated "*Louchina louchinouska*." As regards antiquity, it was in universal use among the peasants in the sixteenth century. Fletcher, who visited the Czar of Moscow as ambassador from the Court of Elizabeth, mentions it, and at the same time speaks of other Russian customs, about which there is this remarkable—that they exist in the present day just as they existed then. Perhaps until within the last twelve or fifteen years, the Russian peasant was as miserable in every respect as he certainly was three hundred years since; but in order that the reader may form some idea of Russian tyranny as it existed under the first Czars, we will quote a passage from one of Mr. Fletcher's letters, in which he tells anecdotes about Ivan the Terrible, as tourists of modern times tell anecdotes about Nicholas. "In these exactions," says our friend Fletcher, who, we must observe, is mentioned as an authority by Karamsin, the historian, "the Emperours sometimes use very plain and yet strange cavillations. As was that of Ivan Vassilievitch, father to this Emperour (a Fedor), after this sort: He sent into Persia for certain loads of cedar wood, whereof he knew that none grew in that country. The inhabitants returned answer they could find none there; whereupon he assessed the country in 12,000 roubles, as if they concealed the commodity of purpose. Again, he sent to the city of Mosko to provide for him a colpack or measure full of live fleas for a medicine. They returned answer that the thing was impossible; and if they could get them, yet they could not measure them for leaping out; whereupon he praued or beat out of their shinnies seven thousand rubbels for a mulct. By like cavillation he extorted from his nobilitie thirty thousand rubbels, because he missed of his game when he went a hunting for the hare; as if their hunting and murdering of hares had been the cause of it; which the nobilitie (as the manner is) praued instantly again upon the mousicks or common people of the countrie. This may seem a strange kind of extortion by such pleasant cauils to fiese his poore subjectes in good sadnesse; but that it agreeth with the qualitie of those emperours and the miserable subjection of that poor countrie."



RUSSIAN SERFS.—(FROM A DRAWING BY RAFFET.)



DESIGN FOR THE WAR OFFICE.—(CUTHBERT BRODRICK, ARCHITECT.)—PREMIUM £100.

It is seen that in the sixteenth century the condition of the Russian peasant was not a very happy one, but nevertheless he was not then a serf.

Writers on Russia mention as a remarkable fact that serfdom originated in an ukase issued by the Czar Boris Goudenoff in 1601, for the purpose of restraining the nomadic, unsettled habits of his subjects, who were constantly changing their places of abode for more promising localities and more fruitful pasture. To this end he enacted that every peasant should settle definitely on the land he had cultivated on the previous Yurief's-day, which is still celebrated as a day of evil in the Russian national songs. The subject of complaint in these compositions is not, however, the slavery of the Russian peasant, but his inability to move about from one place to another, according to will.

Some writers pretend that the Slavonians, like the Arabs, were naturally of nomadic habits; but it would be very difficult to justify this assertion, except to a very partial extent. It is much more probable that, under the domination of the Mongols, estates were much more frequently devastated, and society so thoroughly disorganised that the Russian peasants were compelled to wander about in search of mere subsistence. During the subjection to the Mongols and Tartars (from the thirteenth to the fifteenth century) Russia was divided into a number of principalities, each of which was governed by a descendant of Rurik the Norman, under the patronage of Batu-Khan, Mamai, Ghirid-Sahib, or whoever the chief of the Horde happened to be. Under the principality system the peasants went where they pleased, provided they only kept within the limits of the principality to which they belonged; they probably did as they pleased in many other respects, but they were robbed and murdered as the Tartars pleased.

However, under Boris Goudenoff and by his sole ukase (properly *oukaz*) the Russian peasants became attached to the soil, *gleba adscripti*.

The administrative measures necessary for watching over the maintenance of this state of things entailed registration and official surveillance; and eventually in the course of years the owners of land, availing themselves of the inability of the peasants to change their locality, extorted from them compulsory labour on their own estates, and even menial services about their own dwellings.

Thenceforward the peasant came under the police regulations of the landowners, but was not yet a serf in the full sense of the word. This he became gradually, after the time of Peter the Great—almost accidentally, indeed, and quite illegally.

As long as Russia remained a purely agricultural country, the bondage of the peasants was little oppressive, particularly in Great Russia, where formerly but few nobles lived on their estates, and where the landowner delivered over the whole land to his peasants for their uncontrolled use on payment of a rent. This is just what happens in the present day with the Crown peasants, who simply pay a tax of ten roubles a-year (thirty-three shillings and fourpence).

But when Peter introduced manufactures, called in foreign manufacturers, and assigned them ground for their establishments, he had at the same time to furnish them with workmen. It was decided that they should employ serfs, on the same conditions as those on which the latter worked for their landlords. The peasants worked in and for the manufactory, the master of which was held answerable for their maintenance, clothing, and lodging. This arrangement first gave rise to the idea that as all the labour of the serf belonged to the master, he might be employed in any kind of work the latter might require.

Under the great Catherine—who was a German, and who treated the Russian peasants like a Tartar—serfdom appeared in its very worst form. Peasants, although "assigned to the land," were given away as slaves to her generals, courtiers, and lovers; and it was not until the reign of Paul—who was not a great man, but half a lunatic—that some improvement in the position of the peasant took place.

Paul limited the amount of work claimable by the landlord from his peasants to three days' labour in the week. (1797).

Alexander I., soon after his accession, declared that the Crown would no longer grant serfs in return for services performed to the state.

Then came Nicholas, the bogey, the croque-mitaine of Europe, but for all that the greatest reformer since the time of Peter. Detested by the greater part of his own aristocracy, and abhorred by all the intellectual classes (with whom had originated the insurrection of 1825), Nicholas was at the same time a real benefactor to the peasant. By the ukase of 1842 the serf was for the first time enabled to make contracts and to hold property, and masters at the same time received permission to free their serfs on certain conditions. It was at the same time rendered illegal to separate the members of a family, which, if sold at all, must be sold with the land.

In 1844, Nicholas issued another decree, which was an evident step towards general emancipation. He confined the right of purchasing serfs to those who had attained the fifth *tekhn* or rank—and upwards—in the civil and military service. There are two kinds of nobility in Russia—personal and hereditary. Only the hereditary nobles have the right of holding serfs; but all privileges of the hereditary nobility may be acquired by service. Formerly it was attained with the eighth *tekhn* (that of major in the army, first lieutenant in the navy, and assessor in the civil service). Nicholas, then, confined the acquisition of hereditary privileges to the first five ranks in the state service; and this was a very considerable limitation, for where a thousand will rise to the rank of captain or its equivalent, not forty will attain to grade No. 5—that of full colonel, rear-admiral, or councillor of state.

Nicholas also introduced a system of mortgage through which hundreds of thousands have been set free, or from being private serfs have become Crown peasants, which is nearly the same thing. The Russian nobles are extravagant to profusion. To those who needed money the Government advanced cash to the amount of two-thirds of the value of the estate. Then if, after a term of years, the sum advanced, with interest at four per cent., was not repaid, the estate became government land, and the serfs Crown peasants. This has gone on until within the last few months, but it is evident now that the serfs are to be liberated by a more direct process. That Nicholas contemplated this change, and was preparing the way for it, there can be no doubt, but the honour of carrying it out will belong to Alexander II.

As to the mode of effecting the emancipation, all that is known positively is that the serfs will not be liberated in every government at the same time; but that it will be endeavoured to free them all within the next twelve years. It is also stipulated by the Government that every serf on his liberation shall receive a sufficient portion of land for the maintenance of himself and his family.

PROPERTY AND SERFS IN RUSSIA.—A report lately presented to the Emperor Alexander contains the following statistical returns relative to landed property and serfs in Russia:—The numbers of families who are landowners amount to 127,000. Out of these 2,000 possess from 1,000 to 10,000 serfs; 2,000 from 500 to 1,000; 18,000 from 100 to 500; 30,000 from 21 to 100; and 75,000 have less than 21. The total number of peasant serfs of the nobility amount to 11,700,000, and those of the crown to 9,000,000. There are therefore 20,700,000 persons anxiously waiting for an improvement in their condition.

A HINT FOR LOUIS NAPOLEON.—It is a singular fact, that only nine years before the first Revolution, and when no power on earth could have saved the institutions of the country, the government was so ignorant of the real state of affairs, and so confident that it could quell the spirit which its own despotism had raised, that a proposal was made by an officer of the Crown to do away with all the publishers, and not allow any books to be printed except those which issued from a press paid, appointed, and controlled by the executive magistrate. This monstrous proposition, if carried into effect, would of course have invested the king with all the influence which literature can command; it would have been as fatal to the national intellect as the other measures were to national liberty; and it would have consummated the ruin of France, either by reducing its greatest men to complete silence, or else by degrading them into mere advocates of those opinions which the government might wish to propagate. —Buckle's "History of Civilization."

THE COURT.

THE QUEEN, THE PRINCE CONSORT, AND THE ROYAL FAMILY, left Windsor for Buckingham Palace on Monday. A drawing-room is to be held on the 5th of May.

The Prince of Wales left town on Saturday for Ireland. His Royal Highness arrived at Cork in the yacht Osborne. A vast crowd assembled opposite the hotel where he landed, and cheered him loudly as he started for Blarney, from which he returned in the evening, and went to Brandon by train, and remained there for the night as the guest of the Earl of Brandon, at Castle Bernard. On Tuesday, his Royal Highness began his tour in the west of Skibbereen and Bantry. It is said that his Royal Highness will make an extended tour on the Continent towards the close of the summer.

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES IN ST. PAUL'S.—A letter from Dr. Milman, Dean of St. Paul's, on the suggestion of the Bishop of London as to evening service in the cathedral, has been published. The Dean and Chapter are most willing to open the church for evening service; but there is a difficulty in the expense of adapting the cathedral to such purposes. The choir is too small—it could hold only about eleven hundred persons. The dome area is the best, but a large outlay will be necessary to adapt it to the requirements of the case. The Dean and Chapter cannot do this themselves, as they have no more than £1,100 a year for the maintenance of the church. A more temporary fitting-up would cost £1,000, and Dr. Milman pleads for alteration on a wretched scale.

THE EAST INDIA HOUSE AND THE INDIA BILLS.—At a special general court of the East India Company, held on Tuesday, it was resolved:—That this Court concur in the opinion of the Court of Directors—that neither of the Bills now before Parliament is calculated to secure good Government to India; and they accordingly authorise and request the Court of Directors to take such measures as may appear to them advisable for resisting the passing of either bill through Parliament, and for introducing into any bill for altering the constitution of the Government of India such conditions as may promise a system of administration calculated to promote the interests of the people of India, and to prove conducive to the general welfare.

THE AMENDED NAVY ESTIMATES.—The amended navy estimates for the present year, as framed by the new Government, were issued on Saturday. Compared with the estimates prepared by Sir Charles Wood's board, they do not present any remarkable feature of change. The number of seamen and marines to be maintained is the same, their cost is the same. The Admiralty office, coast guard service, scientific branch establishments at home, non-effective allowances, all remain at the same strength and cost as the late Ministers designed. The total amount required for naval services in the present estimates shows a diminution of £319,000 on the previous estimate, a reduction apparently achieved by the new board in the following manner:—Some £50,000 is knocked off the wages of artificers in her Majesty's establishments at home, £75,000 off the item of naval stores; the cost of new works and improvements, &c., is cut down by £100,000, and the conveyance of troops is lessened by £85,000. All these items of reduction make up a sum of £319,000, and hence the estimates of Sir John Pakington amount to £8,281,000, while those of Sir Charles Wood were £9,140,000.

THE CASE OF THE REV. S. SMITH.—Mrs. Smith is liberated on bail, her sureties being, we hear, the brother of her husband, and his cousin, an artist, of Gloucester. She has several times visited her husband in prison. We hear that Mr. Smith bears up manfully against his misfortunes, and hopes that successful efforts will be made to obtain his removal to Australia.

LAW AND CRIME.

During the last week, some insight has been afforded, to those who chose to enjoy the opportunity, into the constitution of our House of Commons. The fact was previously sufficiently notorious that the "property qualification," as one of the requisites for an elective legislator, is frequently evaded by persons who commence their career of making laws by dodging those already made, and who obtain seats as members of Parliament with especial predilections towards the privilege against arrest by angry creditors. We had already seen bailiffs on the hustings, awaiting the result of the poll, to determine their proceedings upon a warrant issued against a candidate, and already knew of members of Parliament sworn to a property qualification, living nevertheless in furnished lodgings, with no perceptible source of revenue, and setting honest creditors at defiance. Strange people had come into the House under Palmerston's general election. Mr. Montague Chambers, Q.C., had been ousted at Greenwich by an undertaker. Therefore, one would scarcely have expected to see Mr. Chambers, in his position as counsel, boldly asserting before a jury, that this kind of thing was correct, and that the "property qualification" was habitually evaded by our representatives. Such, nevertheless, was one of the arguments adduced on behalf of Mr. Glover, a gentleman who, having obtained admission to the House by declaring that he was possessed of requisite income, has been tried for making a false declaration respecting a fact of which one might have expected Mr. Glover to be as well informed as any one. The Judge upon the trial directed the jury that the fact of the false declaration was not sufficient to justify a conviction, but they must be satisfied that the defendant knew it to be false. After this summing-up, the jury returned a verdict of guilty, but with a recommendation to mercy, upon the ground of its being the first prosecution of the kind, and upon the fact of the loose way in which such declarations are made at the bar of the House. Mr. Glover is sentenced to four months' imprisonment as a first-class misdemeanant for obtaining a seat in the Legislature under false pretences. A day or two only previously, the late Member for Greenwich appeared in the Bankruptcy Court. A gentleman who to his business of undertaker and auctioneer unites that of senator, can scarcely be expected to succeed in all, and Mr. Townsend unfortunately broke down in everyone. Perhaps customers were waiting for coffins in the shop at Greenwich, while the proprietor was finding his way through Westminster to Basinghall Street. The reporter tells us, "great sympathy is expressed for Mr. Townsend." For what? we should like to know. For his bankruptcy? A bankrupt is a man who, being unable to pay his debts, is relieved therefrom by a merciful law. In Mr. Townsend's case, we are told there is no estate. And yet, in the face of this, his counsel raises a legal quibble, and threatens an appeal on a point arising from his position as a member of Parliament. The creditors, if they contest the appeal, must therefore do so at their own cost, without a chance of receiving a sixpence, however the matter may be decided. And we are called upon to sympathise with Mr. Townsend!

Of all the mean, despicable wretches ever convicted, there was perhaps never one so thoroughly contemptible as the last "object of interest," Giovanni Lani, who has been just sentenced for strangling an unfortunate woman for the sake of her miserable jewellery. Yet no sooner is he condemned than the civic authorities crowd to his cell to offer their respectful considerations, and to tell him that he is to be hanged on Monday, the 26th. Mr. Under-sheriff Parker brings into play once more his acquaintance with the Italian tongue, and winding up his address in that language with a pertinent question as to whether the prisoner comprehends him, must be highly gratified to hear the culprit reply that he understands the learned Under-sheriff very well. Then affectionate inquiry is instituted as to whether prisoner wishes for anything. Prisoner, affected with this touching commiseration, weeps. All he wants, is nicer food than he gets. He is assured that his pathetic request shall be met with immediate attention. Wretched man, indeed!—not only to be hanged as the most contemptible and cruel of scoundrels, but to undergo the humiliation of being patronised for a fortnight by civic dignitaries!

Two men, who have recently been practising what is termed the "commercial swindle," were tried at the Old Bailey. They had ordered samples of goods to be sent to them, as "Prescott and Co.," at 16, Cross Street, Hatten Garden. One of their victims proceeded to that address and found that the "firm" had there an apartment, at a dairyman's, where they called occasionally for letters and parcels. The defence was, that the matter was simply one of debt, but this was overruled, and the prisoners were found guilty, thereby furnishing an alarming precedent for similar depredations, the number of whom is unfortunately not small.

At the Westminster County Court, on Monday last, a capitalist was summoned for the price of advertisements inserted in a leading fashionable newspaper, offering to lend thousands of pounds to nobility and gentry. He did not appear.

John Collins, a well-known character upon the Thames, having resided about half a century in a barge off Millbank, was last week tried upon a charge of stealing coals, and, being convicted, was sentenced to six months' hard labour. He is 61 years of age, and has recovered more bodies, both dead and alive, than any other two men upon the river. He once startled a coroner and jury by a characteristic speech, illustrating a strange old custom. Describing his recovery of the body of a drowned woman, he spoke of having got out the body and kissed it. "Kissed it?" cried the Coroner. "Yes, sir, I kissed them as I gets out!"

A neat repartee, of a class which should entitle it to enduring remembrance, was made a day or two since by Mr. Edwin James. Mr. James, in a speech upon the trial of Mr. Glover, had spoken of a "very old man," who was afterwards proved to be about sixty years of age. Mr. Justice Crompton hereupon remarked, that "when the Learned Counsel arrived at that age he might not think himself so very old." "Certainly not, my lord, if I were a judge."

THE MURDER AT PORTSMOUTH.

EDWIN HART, a clerk in the employment of the admiralty depot at Portsmouth, has been arrested for the murder of his brother, Daniel Hart, in that town.

The person whose testimony chiefly incriminates him is Mary Ann Whiting, the landlady of a beer-house, situate in Penny Street, and her evidence was taken before the magistrates privately on Thursday week. She states that shortly after twelve o'clock on the night of the murder, a man dressed in a glazed waterproof overcoat, with a slouched hat or cap made of similar material, knocked at the door of her house, and urgently asked to be supplied with some beer. She did not know his name, neither had she seen him before. As it was past midnight, she at first imagined him to be a policeman in disguise, and looked at him earnestly in the face. She also served upon the man's face a scar, similar to one which marks the face of the prisoner. (It may be recollected that the landlady of the deceased Hart posed at the inquest that the man who shot him wore a waterproof overcoat and cap.)

When Mrs. Whiting made her statement to the police, prisoner was seized upon by a Mr. Leggatt (the superintendent), who asked if he would meet the woman, and he at once refused; she was therefore conducted to the coroner's office, and recognised Hart as the man whom she had served with beer on the night of the murder. Hart, on the other hand, states positively that he was not in Portsmouth on the night in question. He was formerly charged with the murder on Saturday. Mr. Leggatt, the superintendent of the borough police, and Mrs. Whiting, were the only witnesses. The evidence of the former went to establish, or rather to introduce, the above facts connected with the prisoner's unbecomable visit to the beerhouse, which were afterwards confirmed by the latter. Mr. Leggatt also produced a double-barrelled pistol, one barrel of which appeared to have been recently discharged, "not with gunpowder—the marks being of a light colour, like the ash of a cigar." This weapon was found at the prisoner's residence, in Southsea. The bullet found in the body of the deceased exactly fitted this pistol.

It is said that the deceased and the prisoner (both illegitimate children by the same mother) were known to be at enmity, and that since the murder the latter has manifested considerable anxiety to obtain possession of the money now in the custody of the police. The case will be brought before the magistrates again to-day (Saturday).

THE HAYMARKET MURDER.—The trial of Giovanni Lani, a Sicilian, for the murder of Heloise Thaubin, a Frenchwoman, in a court in the Haymarket, was concluded on Friday week. The accused did not exhibit any of the levity he indulged in when before the Magistrate, but paid deep attention to the evidence. The testimony adduced was of precisely the same character as that already reported, no new fact coming out. Even the cross-examination of the woman and the man who lived in the house where Thaubin lodged elicited nothing new; it only went to make more apparent the degraded character of the lives they led. Nothing came out in favour of the prisoner; and the jury found a verdict of "Guilty." The convict was sentenced to be hanged. The daily papers have regaled their readers every morning since Lani's conviction with an account of his conduct in jail, which is said to be very exemplary. His capture is ascribed to the obstinacy (or what?) of a bull. "The vessel in which Lani was to have sailed for South America had on board a vicious bull, which was to have been conveyed to Valparaiso. The bull not liking his quarters became violent, and broke down all the securities which interposed between himself and his fellow-passengers. This occasioned a delay of twenty-four hours. If this singular accident had not occurred, the vessel would have been far down the channel when the officers arrived at Greenwich." Another fact mentioned in connection with the convict is, that when Lani was at the office of the owners of the vessel, he had in his hand a piece of chain, which he threw in a very skilful manner, remarking that by such a process he could at once choke any one he pleased.

TRIAL OF THE LATE MEMBER FOR BEVERLEY.—Mr. Edward Archibald Glover was tried at the Central Criminal Court for misbehaviour, in having unlawfully made a false declaration as to his qualification to sit as a member of the House of Commons, and has been sentenced to four months' imprisonment as a first-class misdemeanant.

POLICE.

VIVACITY OF THE LORD MAYOR.—John Edwards, a jolly-looking bearded man, was charged by Mr. Edwin Jones with begging. He forestalled himself into complainant's house, and was very abusive. He was in vain to be got away. Prisoner has one deformed hand, but represented that he had lost both his hands, and kept the sound hand under his smock-front.

Defendant displayed his left hand, which was a very unsightly object. On being desired to unbind his right hand he affected to be in great pain, but the officer pulled away the bandage, and exhibited a limb of excellent health and magnitude.

The Lord Mayor—Had the defendant been drinking? Officer—Yes, my Lord, it was plain that he had.

Defendant—My Lord, I am nothing but a poor cripple. I travelled up from Staffordshire, and I fell in with some countrymen, who gave me two mug gin, so that I didn't know what I was about. I do assure you I am almost blind, and came here to get advice for my eyes.

The Lord Mayor—And you took a dose of gin to cure them. Well, I shall prescribe some medicine much more wholesome, but not half so palatable—21 days in Holloway jail (great laughter).

KIND INTERFERENCE.—Patrick Collins, an Irish labourer, was brought up charged with assaulting and wounding his wife.

Prisoner had been remanded for a fortnight in consequence of the non-appearance of complainant from unwillingness to prosecute. She was now in attendance, and said that her husband was at the corner of a street, evidently in liquor, talking to a woman, when she went up and upbraided him, upon which he struck her with a basket having a wooden bottom, which he had in his hand, and wounded her head. She blamed herself for having irritated him while under the influence of drink.

Mr. Paynter thought she looked extremely ill.

Complainant admitted that she was, but said it arose from another cause. She and her child, five years of age, had been fretting in consequence of the absence and imprisonment of the husband and father, and she hoped that the magistrate would grant his discharge.

Mr. Paynter thought the defendant owed much to his wife for her kind feeling, and taking into consideration his fortnight's imprisonment, consented to discharge him, on his finding one surety in £10. The bail was procured.

A VALUABLE WITNESS.—An action was brought at the Reading assizes by the assignees of Smart, a bankrupt, to recover money paid to a person named Fricker by the bankrupt in contemplation of bankruptcy, on an alleged fraudulent preference.

In the course of the case a witness named Hen'g was cross-examined by Mr. Stone:—I see there is an attorney's name to the back of the bill of sale? Did you put it? Witness—Oh, yes, Mr. Stone. Did you do it without his authority? Witness—Oh, yes; but I did it by an oversight. Mr. Stone—Pray have you not been in some trouble? Witness—Oh, Mr. Stone, don't rip up the errors of my youth. Mr. Stone—Have you not been convicted of some offence? Witness—Oh, yes, I have. Mr. Stone—Was it not for forgery? Witness—It was for writing another person's name. Mr. Stone—You were sentenced to be transported, I believe. Witness—Oh, yes, I was. Mr. Stone—And you have been in some other little trouble; were you not convicted of highway robbery? Witness—Not with violence; not with violence. Mr. Stone—You were convicted in this court, I believe. Witness—Oh, yes, before my Lord there. The Judge—Did you rob the man? Witness—No, my Lord, not rob him; only took his money surreptitiously.

For the defence it was sworn by the defendant, his wife, and his daughter, that the defendant had lent the bankrupt £40 on his I O U, and that he had several times demanded his money, and had threatened to put the matter in his attorney's hands.

The jury returned a verdict for the defendant.

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